

Draft until signed

Minutes of Madingley Parish Council (MPC) Annual Meeting

Monday 20th May at 7.30pm, Madingley Village Hall

Present: D Ousby (DO) (Chair), J Stevenson-Hinde (JSH) (Vice-Chair), F Naughton (FN) (Councillor), R Crichton-Stuart (RCS) (Councillor)

Attending: S Etherington-Meech (SEM) (Clerk/RFO), Cllr D DeLacey (DD) (District Councillor), C Baldwin (Madingley Village Hall), R Buckley (RB) & L Buckley (LB) (Madingley News/Public), Peter Wilderspin (PW) (Madingley Hall), Lynda Warth (LW) (County Access and Bridleway's Officer for the British Horse Society for Cambridgeshire/Cambridgeshire LAF), David Hewett (DH) (Stephen Perse School), 5 members of the public

1. Election of chairperson and signing of declaration of acceptance of office

It was proposed by JSH, seconded by RCS and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to elect DO as chair. DO signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. Election of vice-chairperson and signing of declaration of acceptance of office

It was proposed by DO, seconded by FN and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to elect JSH as vice-chair. No declaration of acceptance of office is required.

3. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apology received for Cllr Tom Bygott. Cllr Nieto attended the Annual Parish Meeting prior to this meeting and presented her report. No interests were declared.

4. Public Forum

No items were raised for discussion by the public.

5. Approval of minutes of meeting held on Monday 8th April 2019

Minutes were signed as a true and accurate copy by the chair.

6. Matters arising from minutes

RCS advised that he has reviewed the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Plan and could not see that it would have any effect on Madingley.

RCS further advised that he attended a meeting with PW regarding trees in the parish. The outcome of the meeting was essentially that the University felt that although it may have been a little earlier than necessary, they needed to take down the trees because of the liability associated with them (there has been a budget to reduce liabilities). The replanting and replacing of trees were discussed, however, nothing can be done until the university carries out a planting plan and a budget is agreed and approved. DO noted that the University seemed to be able to find the funds to fell trees, but not to replant them. It was discussed at the meeting with PW that the parish and parish council would like to be involved and consulted in the whole process, DO advised that opportunities for community engagement would be appreciated, PW advised he will liaise with MPC. However, PW did advise that he will have some input into the plan although he will not be drawing it up and will talk to MPC around September/October time to see how they can be involved in the plan. PW did advise that he believes replacement hedgerow trees and hedgerows will be an action to come out of the plan.

DO advised that SCDC does support people in parishes to embark on tree planting schemes and becoming tree wardens, details are on the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) website. He explained that as a busy and active parish council it would be great if any residents in the village

would like to take this on, MPC would fully support including financially if required as the heritage of Madingley is the setting and trees an integral part of that. DO asked residents to please consider.

FN thanked PW for organising the new fencing outside the Three Horseshoes opposite the village hall which has been an agenda item for some time.

7. County Councillor/District Councillor/Parish Council Chairman Reports

County Councillor Report – See Additional Document on MPC website

District Councillor Report – See Appendix 1 & 2

Parish Council Chairman's Report – Presented at point 8. b.

8. Transport & Highways

a. The Avenue including LHI application

Chair combined this with item 8. b)

b. Madingley Greenways Vision – Parish Legacy Fund Proposals/Applications

DO advised that The Avenue has been an issue that the parish over a number of years, it's closure a long standing proposal with the majority of residents wanting The Avenue closed to through traffic, particularly now with its connection to the new local access road which connects The Avenue to Oakington Road in Dry Drayton, crosses over to Bar Hill to connect with the A14 westbound. One principal issue and reasoning behind closure is the route becoming an ideal route for A14 westbound traffic and if the M11 has problems then Madingley becomes an appealing shortcut. Other reasoning for the closure is the development of Northstowe and its lack of linkage between the A14 and A428, how will 23,000-25,000 inhabitants of this new town get to the next big town such as Cambourne, there is a lack of connectivity between A428 and other roads such as Huntingdon Rd and the A14. Dry Drayton are united with Madingley in their view for the need of a bypass between the A428 and A14 either at the Girton interchange or other means that doesn't require everyone going through Madingley or Dry Drayton. Highways England are projecting up to 6,400 vehicles a day will use The Avenue. Prior to the A14 works, around 150 vehicles an hour travelled along The Avenue at peak times, no more than 1,500 vehicles a day. The projected increase in traffic volumes is huge, hence, why Madingley are asking for closure of The Avenue.

DO advised that Highways England have approached villages affected by the A14 works to bid for a pot of money, a £1million legacy fund and parishes have been asked to list the top 3 things that the parish would like, the deadline is 31st May 2019 with monies being spent in March 2020, all very last minute. It was suggested that previous LHI applications that have been unsuccessful could be focused on as many were unsuccessful due to competition, advice is to enhance those applications for resubmission. DO advised that the benefits to Madingley with the closure of The Avenue are obvious, however, consideration can be made as to how to improve connections between the village and neighbouring areas such as Dry Drayton, Coton, Girton, Cambridge and the new settlement in Eddington. There are a network of footpaths and bridleways which have been disrupted both by the current A14 works and works carried out 40 years ago. Madingley used to be able to connect with Girton, however, the link between The Avenue and Wash Pit Lane stopped 40 years ago when the A14 was upgraded.

DO advised that Girton footpath 5, which travels from Huntingdon Road and passes under the M11, is being upgraded to a bridleway by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) that connects to Madingley footpath 3 which comes out on Cambridge Road although this doesn't really go anywhere. However there is the opportunity to connect the new Girton bridleway, by means of an existing farm track around Ladybush Plantation, to Madingley Bridleway 2, which starts opposite the 800 wood on Cambridge Road, crosses over the old A428 and used

to connect to Girton but has been cut off by the new loop road coming around off the A14. It is uncertain how Madingley bridleway 2 is going to be connected to the new Local Access Road, if at all. The new Local Access Road has a Non-Motorised Route meant for cyclists, pedestrians and potentially horse riders but is alongside a 60mph road and will run all the way along the new Local Access Road. The bridleway could be connected to the local access road although there is an existing farm track here so if the Avenue is closed to through traffic you could have a non-motorised route that connected right through via Madingley Brick Pits at The Avenue on the boundary of Madingley and Girton and then short step along another track on the Madingley estate to connect through to connecting footpath and bridleways to Dry Drayton. DO advised that there is a missing link on an existing track that is owned by Trinity and this would require permissive access from Trinity. The proposal is a vision wanting to show that Madingley could be a hub for Greenways to connect things up that have been broken and enable people to move from town to villages and between villages without having to go on motorised routes.

Furthermore, DO highlighted an issue on Dry Drayton Road in Madingley in particular, it is used by cyclists and there have been a number of incidents on its narrow bends as traffic does not slow down, it would be favourable to explore mitigation measures to slow down the speed of traffic in these areas and make it a less attractive motorised route. If traffic that does use it is going slower this will be safer for cyclists and horse riders. This is a popular route for horse riders as Park Farm has a permissive bridleway for horses around its area, a wider permissive footpath network around Madingley Hall, the 300 Capability Brown walk, and the 800 wood, with the footpath links to Coton between Madingley Wood and the American Cemetery & Memorial. This is the vision for the proposal and DO welcomed feedback, questions, comments to take on board from attendees at the meeting.

The public asked DO what the chances were of getting The Avenue closed. DO advised so far that MPC is in the process of submitting a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the closure, and is undergoing the consultation process required by the Highways Authority with adjoining parishes and interested parties, Madingley does not need the permission of these wider stakeholders for the TRO to be granted, but does need to show they have been consulted and their views and opinions addressed. At the end of the day, it just needs to make sense. DO attended a Local Access Forum last week which is part of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Bridleways and they could see sense in the proposal and would be supportive, Madingley just need to show the benefit of closing The Avenue. Madingley Parish Council have gone to extensive lengths to show that there is no disbenefit especially to Dry Drayton by the closure, a lot of time and resources have been spent by Madingley Parish Council on this and DO thinks this is now satisfied. Madingley do not have unanimous support from the councillors at Dry Drayton or Girton Parish Councils but do know people living in Dry Drayton and Girton feel the same way as Madingley.

DO advised that Girton is somewhat detached as it has been cut off for so long by the A14 so they are sceptical as to what benefit it could bring to them, DO said he is unsure what opening the Avenue could do for them other than making Madingley an attractive rat run to Girton. However, the ability to access Girton through a bridleway standard path means connectivity will be much better and bring with it the ability to cycle along the NMU (Non-Motorised Users) on The Avenue. The benefit for Madingley residents, if they want to get into town to Edington particularly with children this would become a wide, safe and attractive route, safer than coming up Cambridge Road with undulations and dips that can be challenging on a bike. There are several safety reasons why closing The Avenue would be logical.

A member of the public requested an extended version of the map that DO was using, DO explained that to get to this point has been difficult and this stage is just illustrating the vision and would be more in-depth if the proposal goes further.

The public questioned as to whether a bridleway and cycleway are the same. In response to this question DO introduced LW who explained that a bridleway is available to pedestrians and horse riders and always has been and since 1968 cyclists have been allowed on a bridleway under certain rules and regulations. LW advised that she would support and encourage Madingley not to apply for permissive paths and Madingley should be looking to create and preserve the area and environment for future generations. Years can be spent applying for a permissive path and the day after signing it can disappear. Therefore, need is to get paths dedicated and onto a definitive map to ensure they are protected for future generations, there is an opportunity to work with University in many ways with this if applying for a legacy fund. LW can help and works with routes for all including horse riders, cyclists, dog walkers etc. DO advised that we will take LW up on the offer of support. LW advised that part of the right of way agreement plan does say that new development should help to reconnect these paths and there is quite a lot of legislation that can help.

William Seale (WS) of Madingley Toad Rescue advised that they have noted a significant decrease in rush hour traffic in the evenings with The Avenue being closed. Any increase in traffic has a huge impact on the toads and is disastrous for their safety as it takes a toad on average 3 minutes for a toad to cross the road and that is only if the toad goes straight across the road, males often stop completely on their journey. Unfortunately, part of the problem is that fences cannot be erected everywhere. Movements of the toads coincide just after dusk around late February and early March, WS advised that he has noticed a reduction in casualties with the closure of The Avenue which is very positive and important as toads only breed once in their life. JSH requested a supporting statement from Madingley Toad Rescue to highlight the difference the closure of The Avenue has made highlighting the environmental impact as well as just resident views.

A member of the public asked DO if there has been any consideration as to the cost effect on the village from damage caused by traffic such as lorry damage to water mains, wall repairs after being hit by vehicles, hitting speed bumps, damage to electricity and whether this should be considered within the proposal. It was also noted that houses even shake when lorries pass through the village. One option raised by DO was to suggest that the £130,000 that is proposed to resurface The Avenue would not need to be spent if The Avenue is unused by traffic. DO explained that some of the issues with HGV's in many villages is caused by farm traffic which are extremely heavy vehicles, however, there is more tolerance for this type of traffic. Although an issue raised was that these vehicles keep getting bigger and bigger and the road do not, regardless of speed it's the weight that proves an issue.

Weight restriction were suggested by a member of the public, DO highlighted that part of the vision could be to have unsuitable for HGV's signage and if The Avenue did close there could be a turning head so that any trapped vehicles could turn around. Interestingly Highways have said it doesn't have to be big enough for a HGV1 with trailer but just a fire engine or bin lorry, they do not see the need for infrastructure for larger vehicles. The Speed watch Co-ordinator advised that this would be ok in reducing larger vehicles, but a weight restriction would not stop rat run traffic. Madingley does not get many HGVs but the problem is that they do get noticed when they do come through as the village is not designed for them. It's increases in volume that needs to be avoided.

A Girton resident showed her support and welcomed the proposals as she has recently become a horse owner again and feels completely cut off from the countryside around

Madingley. DO advised the resident that Girton footpaths 4 & 5 are due to be upgraded to a bridleway with Cambridgeshire County Council funds and section 106 monies and connection through to Eddington is to be improved as currently you cannot really get there easily along Huntingdon Road.

A resident of Coton asked if there is any chance of linking Madingley to Coton. DO advised that this is hard to do but will consider if any there are any options.

9. Planning

a. Applications received for consideration

i. S/1260/19/TC – Trees in front of 12 & 13 Church Lane, CB23 8AF – Tree works

DO spoke to the Assistant Director of Planning at SCDC, whom is concerned that there is no evidence for felling of the trees, and this was circulated to the parish councillors, DO recommends MPC object to the application on grounds of insufficient evidence using points circulated in his email. All councillors unanimously agreed this action RESOLVED. A resident with experience in this area suggested the best scenario was a tree radar survey giving a proper drawing of the land.

b. Decisions received from South Cambs District Council – None received

10. Play area including Stephen Perse maintenance grant and email re: community projects

DH introduced himself, he is currently senior teacher and in September will be Head of the Stephen Perse School (SPS) in Madingley. DO has been liaising with SPS regarding a maintenance grant for the play area and advised that MPC are delighted SPS have agreed to contribute £1,100 per annum. DO advised that MPC would like to facilitate discussions with SPS and ensure that they are involved in decision making regarding the play area and its maintenance as SPS use the play area on a regular basis, the ROSPA report is to be shared also. DH agreed and advised that SPS and pupils are keen for community involvement with Madingley.

DH advised with regards to Highways and Traffic that an application has been put in for zig zag lines outside of school, however it has been rejected due to lack of funding. DO highlighted to DH that Local Highways Initiatives are very competitive with a relatively small pot of money making the chances to receive funding low, criteria consider if fatalities have or very nearly occurred. Yellow zigzags are a recommendation and work as a deterrent and not a prohibition, the police do not have resources to police it. Talk to parents, however, they have a need and chose not to. School caution lights are no working. DH advised that the school do talk to parents about traffic issues and they do encourage the use of their park and ride minibus to be more sustainable and reduce traffic cost. DO questioned the start time for the Autumn Term, DH advised that it is currently 8.50am but some students arrive at 8am for breakfast club, in the Autumn registration will be 8.20am for teaching to start at 8.30am, DO advised that there will always be issues with traffic no matter the start time.

In relation to community projects DH advised that the school have approached the Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination Company whom are happy to work with the school, however, they come with relatively high costs, £10,000 to make projects happen. DO advised that he is happy to see the play area developed within Forest school principals. The play area is the principle place to play but also at back of the park towards the allotments is great for creative play which should be encouraged. MPC are to share and discuss the ROSPA report of the play area with SPS as they are regular users of the equipment and DO requested that SPS advise if they notice any work that is required. The school were previously involved in planting of trees in 800 wood. DH advised that there is consideration for a toddler group to start at the village hall, DO advised that DH would have to go directly to the village hall committee to discuss this. DO requested that SPS make a regular contribution to the Madingley News, DH advised that submission dates are in his calendar.

11. Defibrillator including electrical quotes/housing/grant funding

FN advised that a grant application has been submitted for funding for the housing of the defibrillator at the village hall and MPC are just awaiting a response, CB advised that a quotation has been received for installation and installation can occur as soon as funding is received. CB also advised that the Three Horseshoes pub will be raising funds in the summer to put towards the installation costs for the defibrillator.

12. Parish Noticeboard – delivery/erection

The noticeboard has been received and stored by CB. Councillors are to arrange a date for removal of the old noticeboard and erection of the new noticeboard and a request was made for to the parish help with this. **Action** - RCS to source a plaque showing funding was received from SCDC.

13. ROSPA – Play Area Inspection Report

DO advised that mainly minor issues were raised in the ROSPA report. One issue was loss rungs, FN has now received the key to tighten these.

14. Operation London Bridge – Action Plan – Death of a Senior National Figure

Clerk circulated an email to councillors. FN had a suggestion that a minute's silence should occur at the meeting following the death. DO believes SCDC should direct MPC as to correct procedures.

15. Salvation Army Clothing Recycling Bank

This was discussed by MPC and they felt it was not something the parish requires.

16. Speedwatch signage

Emails have been exchanged with Simeon Carroll, the Speed Watch Co-ordinator and the clerk and he has now provided a cost estimate of £354.60 to supply and properly install 4 speed watch signs. DO proposed acceptance of the quotation, RCS seconded, all councillors agreed. RESOLVED. Speed watch to advise Simeon to proceed with supply and installation of signs.

17. Cambridgeshire County Council - Street Lighting Energy Notification

Email circulated to councillors. DO is of the understanding that SCDC will be taking this over and embarking on a programme to replace the lighting with LED lighting. DO advised that Madingley have 28 streetlights in the village which they will have to pay energy and maintenance for.

18. Councillor vacancy – Co-option

DO asked the public if anyone is interested in becoming a councillor. DO advised that some parish councils run with three councillors and he has confirmed that four is an acceptable amount.

19. Finance

a. Accounts review to date and 18/19 end of year figures/AGAR/exemption certificate/audit

The finance spreadsheet and account documents were circulated to the councillors before the meeting. As of 7th May 2019, the current account balance was £6,112.80 and the savings remains at £10,379.03.

The internal auditor is booked for the beginning of June. As the income or expenditure for MPC did not exceed £25,000 in 2018/19 AGAR Part 2 was completed.

The exemption certificate including the qualifying criteria was read aloud by the clerk, all councillors agreed that MPC meet the qualifying criteria and the certificate was completed and signed by the chairman (DO) and the Responsible Financial Officer (SEM).

Section 1 the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 was read out and completed, all councillors agreed to all points and the form was completed and signed by the chairman (DO) and the Responsible Financial Officer (SEM).

Section 2 The Accounting Statements for 2018/19 were agreed by all councillors and signed by the chairman (DO) and the Responsible Financial Officer (SEM). Councillors have also reviewed the bank reconciliation and explanation of variances. RESOLVED.

b. Payments received

- i. **Madingley News Advert – Three Horseshoes - £60.00**
- ii. **Madingley News Advert – Sally Warr (Oceans Within) - £40.00**
- iii. **Play area maintenance contribution – Stephen Perse School - £1,100.00**
- iv. **SCDC – 1st precept instalment 19/20 - £4,346.00**

c. Payments to hand

- i. **S Meech – Clerks Overtime & Expenses – £98.58** – All councillors agreed payment. DO and JSH signed cheque number 101161. *Local Government Act 1972, s.112.*
- ii. **Madingley Village Hall – Grant Funding - £1051.00** - All councillors agreed payment. DO and JSH signed cheque number 101162. *Local Government Act 1972, s.133.*
- iii. **Came & Company – Insurance Renewal - £463.19 (Amount was incorrect – amended to £536.94** – All councillors agreed payment. DO and JSH signed cheque number 101163. *Local Government Act 2000, s.101 & Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004.*
- iv. **Playsafety – ROSPA Report – £111.60** – All councillors agreed payment. DO and JSH signed cheque number 101164. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164.*
- v. **CAPALC – Affiliation Fee - £172.32** – All councillors agreed payment. DO and JSH signed cheque number 101165. *Local Government Act 1972, s.143.*
- vi. **Greenbarnes – Noticeboard - £1,483.91** – All councillors agreed payment. DO and JSH signed cheque number 101166.
- vii. **Additional payment – Wicksteed Leisure Ltd – Play Area Frame Key - £27.00** – All councillors agreed payment. DO and JSH signed cheque number 101166. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164.*

20. Correspondence

Circulated prior to the meeting.

21. Any business for inclusion on the next agenda

- Pond at Madingley Hall

22. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 17th June 2019 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Appendix 1

A year ago the Council afforded me the great honour of making me its Chairman. It has been an interesting and enjoyable year, with the focus on representing the Council at wide variety of functions. But what have I done for you, here in the Parish? That I assume is what you want to know. Well, apart from work with individuals, of which there has been a great deal which is of course confidential, I have tried to describe my activities in your Parish Newsletters, though I apologise that has not always happened.

I think the most important job I do is with the Joint Development Control Committee (JDCC). 'Development control' is the technical term for planning: as a council we assess planning applications to decide whether they are acceptable in terms of national law, our Local Plan, and any approved supplementary planning criteria. The JDCC is a joint committee of City, South Cambs and the County, which assesses the large-scale developments which overlap the City/District boundary -- for us that is mainly the University Farm site ('Eddington') and to a lesser extent the NIAB site ('Darwin Green'). The biggest battle with the University has been to get it to realise that half the site is in Girton, not part of the City. I scrutinise all the plans and do my best to ensure they take our needs and wishes into account. At present almost all the development at Eddington is on the City side of the boundary, but that will soon change, and of course it affects traffic on Madingley Road.

Then there is the Local Plan. It was badly handled and was never a good Plan, but at least it has been agreed. But the Government Inspector insisted that it needs immediate revision. The new Administration's response is to start immediately on a new Plan, something we would have to do anyway in a couple of years. The last Plan was started when I was still pretty new as a Councillor and, I acknowledge, out of my depth. That will not be so this time. I shall want to liaise with your Parish Council to ensure that the wishes of the Parish are understood and used to inform the development of the Plan.

Finally let me mention Neighbourhood Plans. These are perhaps less valuable than I had initially supposed, but can help to preserve vital parts of a village, and provide a framework for future growth. What would such a Plan look like for your village? It would have to concur with any proposals in the new Local Plan; it cannot be a NIMBY 'no more development here' claim. But it could highlight some of the aspects of the village you feel most valuable, though there may be also other ways of safeguarding them. If you are interested contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

If you would like a full monthly report emailed to you please contact me at scdc@de-lacey.org and I shall add you to the list of recipients. If you have any District Council issues you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to ask me.

Douglas de Lacey

Cllr Thomas Bygott

2019 Annual Report to Madingley Parish

20th May 2019

Introduction

Thanks to everyone in the village for your support during the year. It is an honour to be your representative, and as always I am happy to assist if you have an issue with the District Council or need some advice.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is one of several layers of local government and sits between the Parish and County levels. It covers 106 villages, but no towns or cities. Although it collects Council Tax on behalf of other local authorities, only a portion of this is collected for the District. The breakdown for a band D property in Madingley is:

Authority	2009-10 band D	2019-20 band D	Average Annual Change
Cambridgeshire County Council	£1,017.27	£1,312.11	2.58%
Cambridgeshire Police Commissioner	£164.70	£222.66	3.06%
South Cambs District Council	£112.53	£145.31	2.59%
Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	£56.34	£70.74	2.30%
Madingley Parish Council	£74.41	£81.01	0.85%
TOTAL	£1,425.25	£1,831.83	2.54%

Until last May my Conservative group ran the administration of the council, but since then we have been in opposition. We left office with nearly £7 million in general reserves, having coped well with the financial crisis a decade ago, and the subsequent reduction in funding from central government without encountering major problems or having to make drastic cuts in services, and with only modest rises in Council Tax.

It is important for civic governance that we play a constructive role in bringing the new administration to account, opposing their decisions where mistakes are being made, but supporting those aspects where we agree that the right decisions are being made. I want to do what is in the best interests of the village and the wider district and hope that the organisation can remain in good shape.

The current administration has embarked on a major and radical overhaul of the organisation, having brought in an outside firm of management consultants to provide recommendations for its future strategy and direction. Despite having worked in consulting and having an MBA myself, I remain deeply skeptical of the value that management consultants and MBA types can bring, and prefer to operate on the principle that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". South Cambs has for a long time been a highly

efficient and well-run authority, and there is as much scope for damage to the organisation as there is for improvement.

Cllr Tom Bygott

2019 Annual Report

Health and well-being programme

This is proceeding well, thanks to the work put in by my colleague Cllr Sue Ellington of Swavesey. A document called the tool kit to tackle loneliness has recently been published, which will guide Parish Councils and resident groups help residents suffering from loneliness and social isolation. Although South Cambs ranked last year as 322 out of 326 English district level local authority areas for multiple deprivation, isolation is one issue where we have a major problem. Statistics from Age UK state that half a million older people nationally go at least 5 days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone.

The toolkit provides a wide range of projects that are taking place across SCDC with a description and overview of each, how they got started, how they were funded and who helped with advice and guidance. There are some examples within the toolkit from other villages with case studies that have been used as examples of good practice. Clearly not every case study will fit every village but many of our parishes are already doing an enormous amount in terms of bringing communities together. This is done through a variety of different groups such as gardening societies, car shares, repair cafés, wellbeing groups, exercise clubs and art projects, all of which bring people together. It is worth having a look at the toolkit on the SCDC website if only to see what things other parishes are offering and maybe to give you new ideas of what else to consider.

Environment

This is one area where my group can work co-operatively with the current administration. We all supported a motion late last year for the District to become zero carbon by 2050. Far from coming at an economic cost, I believe that this initiative will encourage new technologies, boosting efficiency, innovation and entrepreneurship. It will also make us healthier, as Diesel fumes are a major cause of cancer, heart disease and dementia.

SCDC has just launched a Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme. It will provide funds for local groups to spend on ambitious activities that reduce carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels – as well as helping communities spread awareness and promote behaviour change towards low carbon lifestyles.

As a result, this summer community groups will be invited to bid for grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 each. These funds will be able to be spent on projects such as:

- Energy-saving improvements to community buildings, such as insulation, secondary glazing, energy efficient lighting, battery storage for solar panels or other low carbon energy generation measures
- Community energy projects: solar panels, wind turbines and battery storage
- Electric vehicle charging points which the community could use
- Purchase of an electric vehicle for community use
- Community tree planting, to absorb carbon and increase biodiversity
- Community schemes to scale the "circular economy" (food, fashion, waste, travel)
- Cycle paths and stands
- Projects that tackle fuel poverty
- Simple proposals such as cycle racks at bus stops or drinking fountains to encourage the use of reusable water bottles

A total of just over £90,000 is being made available for the scheme for 2019/20. The money comes from business rates from renewable energy sites in South Cambs that are retained by the Council and earmarked for use in green initiatives.

Transport

Work continues on the A14 upgrade, which so far seems to be on track for completion next December. There have been inconveniences, and no doubt there will be more to cope with until then, but hopefully the new road will be worth the wait.

The local road parallel to the A14 has been designated an extension to the A1307, and the first section northbound from Huntingdon Road to the new roundabout on Oakington Road in Dry Drayton, has recently opened, and work continues on the southbound route.

During the works, and during the preceding period when the A14 has been operating at capacity, blockages and congestion have been one of the causes of rat-running through our villages. The additional lanes on the A14 to carry the long-distance traffic, combined with a parallel local road, will make this disruption much less likely in the future. This hopefully will be the case both for cars driving through Madingley and Dry Drayton to join the A14 at the Oakington junction, and those driving through to the A428 when the A14 is blocked or congested.

Housing

The Council maintains a social housing portfolio consisting of 5,225 properties. Last March there were only 49 households in temporary accommodation, and staff work hard to help people avoid becoming homeless. During their last report period, they replaced 283 boilers, installed loft insulation in 507 properties and replaced 115 bathrooms and 114 kitchens. However, the average house price in South Cambridgeshire is more than £441,500, almost 11 times the average income for a resident, so there is still an enormous need to help people squeezed out of the housing market.

The Council set up a private company, Ermine Street Housing in order to boost its activities in the rental sector. In November 2015, the Council decided to expand the business further by investing £100 million over 5 years to buy an additional 500 properties. In 2017-18, Ermine Street Housing brought in £1.4 million per annum as it continues to invest in market housing for rent.

Planning

In September last year, both South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils both had their Local Plans approved. These cover the period to 2031. It took the Planning Inspectorate (a national body) quite a number of years to decide that the plans are "sound". Nonetheless, it is quite a major milestone that the plan has been approved, as Madingley is only distantly affected by the major developments contained in it, and although we are always at risk of inappropriate developments coming forward, the likelihood of appeals to the Planning Inspectors being granted on the basis of an inadequate land supply is no longer the major concern that it was.

Preparations have already started for the following Local Plan, which will extend beyond 2031. There is always the danger that developers will propose major new developments near our village for that plan, and we must remain vigilant.

Cllr Thomas Bygott

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