

## **Councillor Report Annual Parish Meeting 2018**

South Cambridgeshire continues to be one of the best places to live in the UK, but we cannot rest on our laurels and we must all pull together to maintain that status. Much of the work, however, does fall within the remit of South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and these are some of the things we have achieved during the last year:

We have saved over £700,000 by managing all refuse and recycling services for Cambridge City as well as our own. That's amazing considering our teams empty nearly 6 million bins a year! We have also combined services with Huntingdon District Council and Cambridge City in relation to Legal, Building Control and IT, which allows us to have the best people for our back office services.

The Health and Wellbeing programme has been increased to include a range of additional opportunities including:

- Launching the Active and Healthy 4 Life exercise programme taken up by 300 people
- Offering 10,000 residents the chance to try out new sports at Parklife in July
- Funding 12 mobile warden schemes
- Securing over £1 million from developers for green space play equipment

In addition we have worked hard to improve our environment by supporting 40 litter picks and we have launched a £56,000 Renewable Energy Grant scheme to support green initiatives in our communities.

The Council has invested significantly in housing for our young people to ensure they can stay living in the village where they grew up. There are 39 new Council houses, over 150 new affordable homes across the District plus we've secured more than £45 million towards community and sports facilities for Cambourne. Also South Cambs is one of the eleven councils selected by Government leading on Right to Build homes, with over 800 people already signed up.

Further funding for housing has been unlocked in conjunction with the Combined Authority which has obtained £100 million for affordable housing.

The 13 villages that are being supported to deliver their Neighbourhood Plans are shaping their future and the Council has launched a grant scheme to help them develop affordable housing schemes in their village. We are also working with over 200 people to stop them becoming homeless and avoiding them having to use bed and breakfast facilities.

We don't just build houses, we want to build communities too, so we were delighted to welcome the first residents to Northstowe at a formal opening ceremony in May. We will continue to invest in and engage with residents on numerous projects, including via our Community Forums currently in place for residents living in the areas around Northstowe, Waterbeach and the A428 development. These meetings are quarterly and open to all members of the public – do come!

Ermine Street Housing is now bringing in £1.4 million per annum as it continues to invest in market housing for rent. This enabled the Council to make a business loan to develop

Cambridge Ice Rink, which is expected to open at the end of this year. More on how we are funded and where the money goes can be found in the "Your Place, Our Plan" document on the South Cambridgeshire District Council's website [www.scamb.gov.uk](http://www.scamb.gov.uk)

Last but not least, the first of our Business to Business networking events took place recently. Held at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford over 30 SME were represented. We are also allocating 11 new council apprenticeship places each year for the next three years.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is a key member of the Combined Authority, which has £600 million to improve transport links, as well as the Greater Cambridge Partnership, which has plans to improve access to Cambridge via rail, bus, cycle and foot paths. It is clear that both business and communication links are vital to our District and we will continue to support and work on related projects.