

PLANNING POLICY MONTHLY UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2017

This monthly update gives information on:

- Live planning related consultations in South Cambridgeshire to help you have your say;
- Forthcoming planning related consultations in South Cambridgeshire;
- Other key planning news at local, county and national levels.

This update appears on the South Cambs website at the following location:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/local-development-framework-news>

Information on any consultations that may affect people living or working in South Cambs can be viewed on the South Cambs consultations website at the following location:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/consultations>

LIVE CONSULTATION NEWS

There is a City Deal consultation relating to the [Cross City Cycling](#) project. This consultation is about some changes to the design of the Nuffield Road part of the scheme within Cambridge City. This links to the Cambridge North Station and the Science Park. An [on-line survey](#) can be completed. Deadline for comments is Friday 10 March 2017.

FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

There are no forthcoming planning related consultations in February affecting South Cambridgeshire.

OTHER KEY PLANNING NEWS AT LOCAL, COUNTY AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Local News

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

Updated Examination Hearings Programme

An updated [Hearings Programme \(version 16, 16 January 2017\)](#) has been published giving details, including dates where available, on future hearings blocks for both the Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan examinations. **Inspectors' Matters and Issues for [Matters SC6](#)** have also been published. Written statements by invited participants must be submitted by Friday 17 February 2017. These will be published on our website when available from the Programme Officer.

Matter SC6 – Strategic Sites in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

- SC6A – Policy SS/5 Waterbeach New Town
- SC6B – Policy SS/7 Northstowe extension
- SC6C – Policy SS/6 New village at Bourn Airfield

It should be noted that the programme can change and that some hearings may not last as long as the time allowed for them in the published programme. Can we re-emphasise that anyone wishing to listen to particular issues at a hearing should contact the Programme Officer (07803 202578) or the Planning Policy Team (01954 713183) to check the latest progress of a block of hearings.

For the latest news and information on the Local Plan, and more details about what will be discussed at each examination hearing, please visit www.scambs.gov.uk/local-plan-examination.

The next hearing sessions are:

Matter SC7 Building a strong and competitive economy

- Tuesday 28 February 2017 – Policies on new employment sites including the new policy for the extension to the Cambridge Biomedical Centre.
- Wednesday 1 March 2017 – Policies on new employment sites, Papworth Hospital, Fulbourn and Ida Darwin Hospitals, Promotion of Clusters, Shared Social Spaces in Employment Areas, and Tourist Facilities.
- Thursday 2 March 2017 – continuation, will only take place if required.

Matter SC6 Strategic Sites in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

- Tuesday 28 March 2017 – Waterbeach New Town (Timetabled for all day)
- Wednesday 29 March 2017 – Northstowe extension (Timetabled for the morning)
- Thursday 30 March 2017 – Waterbeach New Town (Timetabled for all day if a continuation is required)
- Tuesday 4 April 2017 – New village at Bourn Airfield (Timetabled for all day)
- Thursday 6 April 2017 – New village at Bourn Airfield (Timetabled for all day if a continuation is required)

The Inspectors will update the hearings programme again for other hearings as yet without specific dates. We do not know when this will happen. **You are advised to regularly check for updates to the above programme and if you have an interest in future hearings.** Visit the Local Plan webpages for more information on the [Local Plan](#) and the [public examination](#).

Affordable housing threshold

Following the hearing session on 1st December 2016 about housing issues the Inspectors have sent a [letter](#) to the Council regarding the threshold level for affordable housing in South Cambridgeshire. This relates to the Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) which was first published in November 2014 and introduced a threshold of 10 units of less beneath which affordable housing contributions should not be sought. This element of the WMS was challenged at the High Courts but subsequently upheld by the Court of Appeal in May 2016. The Inspectors have invited the Council to comment on this threshold for affordable housing and how it relates to our district. We are considering our response.

Neighbourhood planning news

Neighbourhood Plan Policy Writing Workshop – Wednesday 22 February

We are running a policy writing workshop on 22 February from 6-8.30pm at our offices in Cambourne. It is aimed at those Parish Councils who are preparing neighbourhood plans and is to be led by Andrew Ashcroft who successfully ran the introductory seminar for parishes in July 2016 – this presentation is available to view on the [neighbourhood plan pages](#) of the South Cambs website.

To date we have given priority for places on this workshop to those parishes who already have a neighbourhood area designated. However if there are any other Parish Councils who would like to take part in this workshop please can you contact Kathryn Hawkes 01954 712932 or email neighbourhood.planning@scambs.gov.uk for more information.

Written Ministerial Statement – legal challenge launched.

Planning minister, Gavin Barwell has moved to strengthen neighbourhood plans in areas where the local authority does not have a five-year housing land supply.

In a [written ministerial statement](#) on 12 December 2016, Barwell said neighbourhood plans would not automatically be deemed out of date in such circumstances if the following conditions applied when a decision on an application is made:

- This written ministerial statement is less than two years old, or the neighbourhood plan has been part of the development plan for two years or less
- The neighbourhood plan allocates sites for housing
- The local planning authority can demonstrate a three-year supply of deliverable housing sites

The current [Annual Monitoring Report](#) records that South Cambridgeshire has a 3.7 year supply of housing land.

A consortium of developers have now formally launched a legal challenge to overturn this change in policy. They had sent a [letter](#) to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) at the end of 2016 calling for the written ministerial statement on neighbourhood planning to be withdrawn. The government's legal department responded recently to this initial letter and rejected the need to withdraw the written ministerial statement. This has resulted in a judicial review application letter to the High Court being sent by the consortium to start the formal process of challenge. We will keep you informed of progress of this challenge.

National news

White Paper on planning

It is anticipated that the Government will be shortly publishing a White Paper relating to planning and housing. We will keep you informed of this.

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvement Scheme

It is anticipated that Highways England will start public consultation on route options for the A428 improvement scheme between the A1 at the Black Cat roundabout and A1198 Caxton Gibbet roundabout in **March 2017**.

Sign-up to automatic updates from Highways England and/or find out more on [Highways England's website](#)

Latest news on the A14

If you are wanting to find out about the progress of the A14 improvements and what works are planned in the near future there is information on the [Highways England website](#).