

**Report from District Councillors
Carla Hofman and John Williams
to Fulbourn Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
27 April 2023**

About South Cambridgeshire District Council

There are currently 45 councillors, representing two towns and 104 parishes and settlements. The current composition of the Council is: 35 Liberal Democrats, 9 Conservatives and 1 Independent. Fulbourn has three District councillors (two Lib Dem and one Conservative).

The Council is based at South Cambridgeshire Hall in Cambourne Business Park where full council and committee meetings are held. It has just over 600 staff including all staff employed in the Greater Cambridge Planning and Shared Waste services. For the 2023/4 financial year the Council has a gross General Fund expenditure of over £86 million, of which £33 million has to be met from local taxation and grants. Council Tax income contributes £11 million. The biggest contributor is Business Rates at £18 million, with Government grants accounting for £3 million. As to other income, in addition to fees and charges, the Council also receives some £7 million in income from investments.

For this financial year the council raised its Council Tax by 3.1% or 10p a week for a Band D property, against a background of over 10% price inflation and 6% pay inflation.

The Council also has over 5,500 council homes. The cost of managing this stock and the cost of building new council housing is ringfenced by law and has to be found from within the Housing Revenue Account which is funded mainly from council rents, which next year will amount to £34 million.

The Council has four key objectives:

- To grow local businesses and economies
- To deliver housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in
- To be Green to its Core
- To be a modern and caring Council

To deliver these objectives it has a rolling 5-year Business Plan Action Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan, which can be found on the council website.

About Carla and John

Carla Hofman lives in Fen Ditton and has been a District Councillor since 2022. She is a Parish Councillor also. John Williams lives in Fulbourn and has been a District

Councillor for Fulbourn since 2010. Since 2018 John has been the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, delivering the money and staff needed to implement the Council's Business Plan.

What South Cambs has done since last April

- In South Cambs over 800 visas have been issued for Ukrainian refugees, more than any other District Council. Because of the way we have assisted them, which has been a blueprint followed by other authorities, the Government is paying for us to buy 40 homes for them in South Cambs which will convert to council housing when they leave.
- Over 80 new Council homes were completed. The number of new homes now exceeds those sold under Right to Buy and the stock is now back to where it was in 2012. Our target is 75 new homes a year.
- Over £600,000 has been spent on helping those struggling with the Cost of Living Crisis, including the provision of slow cookers and electric blankets and support for Warm Hubs.
- To help local businesses the Council has developed a toolkit to help parishes set up community markets to sell locally produced goods.
- Several innovative youth projects, encouraging young people into outdoor activities as a way of improving their mental and physical wellbeing, received council funding.
- South Cambridgeshire District Council's work to tackle climate change locally has been highlighted at a prestigious national awards ceremony. The Council was shortlisted for a Municipal Journal (MJ) Achievement Award in the Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency category.
- A second electric powered bin lorry was delivered, and work will shortly start on providing a solar farm to supply the Cambridge Shared Waste depot at Waterbeach; a third electric bin lorry is to join the fleet shortly.
- The Council funded twelve community projects in South Cambs, aimed at reducing carbon emissions and engaging communities on climate change.
- Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service placed eight new pink collection banks for small electrical items at recycling points.
- The Council introduced grants for Electric Vehicle Charging Points at community hubs.
- South Cambridgeshire District Council successfully bid for £1.7 million Government funding, to continue work to decarbonise its council homes.
- The Council trialled a four-day week for its desk-based staff for 3 months to improve recruitment and retention, staff wellbeing and to save money on agency staff, without worsening service delivery. This delivered better an expected results and John will be recommending a further trial for a year and to include the Waste service.

Carla & John