**Report from District Councillors**

**Carla Hofman and John Williams**

**to Great Wilbraham Parish Council**

**Annual Parish Meeting**

**30 March 2023**

**About South Cambridgeshire District Council**

There are currently 45 members of the District Council, representing 106 parishes and settlements. The current composition of the Council is: 35 Liberal Democrats, 9 Conservatives and 1 Independent. The Council has been under Liberal Democrat control since 2018. Great Wilbraham is in the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn Ward which is represented by three 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 as 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. The Council is trialling a 4 day working week.

The Council also has its own Council Housing stock of over 5,500 properties. 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 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.

**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 since 2010 and has represented Great Wilbraham since 2018 when Ward boundaries were altered. 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**

* At over 800 South Cambs has seen more visas issued for Ukrainian refugees than any other District Council. We have set up a dedicated team to help refugees and their hosts, which has been a blueprint followed by other authorities. This work continues has hosts change and the visitors settle into life in the district.
* 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.
* 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 South Cambridgeshire youth projects encouraging young people into outdoor activities as a way of improving their mental and physical wellbeing and health 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, which submitted details of work on its Green to our Core programme, 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 be received shortly.
* Twelve exciting community projects in South Cambridgeshire, aimed at reducing carbon emissions and engaging communities on climate change received grant funding from the District Council.
* 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 has successfully bid for £1.7 million Government funding, to continue work to decarbonise Council homes.

***Carla & John***