District Councillor’s Report to Parish Councils for The Mordens Ward SCDC

The Council

At full council in July I asked my first question which was about breastfeeding at the council. I’m pleased to say that the new administration has supported my request that a private area at the Cambourne offices be made available for visitors, councillors and staff who are still feeding if they so wish. I’ve also requested that our staff be supported if they wish to continue expressing while at work and the support I have had has been wonderful. The council is also currently reviewing its constitution.

Planning

We continue to refuse applications on the basis of a 5 year land supply, though we have not yet adopted the local plan and are eagerly awaiting the inspectors response. At the last planning committee meeting it was made clear to us that although a land supply has been found it is not a reason to refuse all future applications but we were reminded that a demonstration of harm is required. I have spoken to John Koch who is team west leader and he has agreed to come and talk to The Mordens ward parish councils about how the planning department is now processing applications and advise the implications of the recent changes.

Community Chest Grants

I attended the recent Grants Advisory Committee meeting, there was a great emphasis on parish councils no longer being able to apply for community chest grants with the exception of non-precept raising parishes, although not on this committee I did suggest that an exemption be made for parishes below a certain number of dwellings or electorate considering The Mordens ward consists of 30% of the Districts Parish Meetings. Once I have clarification of the decisions that have been made I will inform the Parish councils as soon as possible. The reason given for suggesting parish councils are unable to apply is that the Councils could raise their precepts for any grant provision etc.

Heather

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