**District Councillor’s Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC February 2019**

**East West Rail**

The Oxford to Cambridge Rail line central section (between Bedford and Cambridge) could have a huge impact to our area. East West Rail Company have started a non-statutory public consultation that runs between 28th January and 11th March, I would like all in our area to take part, your views are extremely important. My personal view is that a southernly route would be detrimental to where we live and would have an unforgivable impact on the Wimpole Hall estate which is of unique historic value to our area. You can have your say via the link below:

https://eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay

**Taxis**

Over the last few months I’ve been sitting on taxi license hearings. As a customer you have every right to ask to see a taxi drivers license. If anyone has any concerns or are aware of an unlicensed taxi driver operating in the area, then please do report it to SCDC or myself. Unlicensed drivers are a public safety concern.

**Highway Issues**

I would just like to remind that, you can report problems on roads or pavements including potholes, kerbs, verges, flooding, hedges and trees, public rights of way, road markings, road signs and traffic signals on the Cambs county council website via the link below:

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

**Community Chest Grants**

At November’s Full council meeting I seconded a motion that called for the administration to give re-consideration to the barring of some parish councils from accessing the Community Chest funding. This is because of my concerns about where the line has been drawn to define which parishes were “small” for the purposes of the policy. Only Parish meetings or parish councils with less than 160 registered electors can currently apply for Community Chest Funding, meaning many parishes in the Mordens ward no longer qualify. I also feel that Council Tax is collected on the basis of households, not electorate, and feel that the link to the number of electors is unfair as not everyone qualifies for inclusion on the electoral roll. I note as well that small community groups could apply for funding, but if the scheme is on parish council land, the parish council is expected to contribute 50% of the cost and this could discouraged proactive groups from being able to apply for funding.

**Cllr Heather Williams**

**SCDC The Mordens Ward**

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