District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Government has now paused Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) while it reviews the programme, meaning we are still no closer to knowing what the future of our local councils in Cambridgeshire will look like. This is frustrating but, sadly, not surprising. Considerable time, public money and council resources have already been spent on a process which has now been thrown into further uncertainty. Whatever happens next, my priority remains making sure South Cambridgeshire residents have a meaningful say in the future of their local services and that we continue to argue for an outcome that works for our communities, rather than simply accepting what is imposed from Westminster.

Roads and Highways update

This month, I met with the County Council's Highways team to visit a number of problem areas across the ward and press for action on issues residents have raised with me. There were some positive outcomes, including the B1042 at Tadlow and Croydon now being treated as a priority due to the severity of the deterioration and subsidence, with warning signs and a temporary 40mph limit planned while more substantial works are considered. In Steeple Morden, further action is being taken on The Green following concerns about previous repairs and drainage, pothole works are progressing on Ashwell Road, and Station Road is due preparation works by December ahead of future surface treatment. We also looked at issues across the ward, with a number of repairs, inspections and follow-up works now being progressed. I will continue to chase these commitments and raise other problem areas across our villages with Highways.

If you spot a pothole or another highway defect, please do report it as the more evidence Highways receives, the stronger the case for repairs. Faults can be reported here: Report a highways fault | Cambridgeshire County Council

A505 Safety

I have again written to the Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council requesting an update on the safety measures being considered for the A505. Concerns about the safety of this road continue to be raised with me by residents and, particularly considering the tragic accidents that continue to occur, it is important that we see meaningful action to improve safety. I will continue pressing Hertfordshire County Council for answers and for progress on measures to make the A505 safer for everyone who uses it.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

The final consultation on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan closes on 25th September – this Friday. This Plan will shape where new homes and development go across our area for years to come, so if you haven't yet had your say, I would really encourage you to do so. I continue to have concerns about some of the proposals, particularly the impact of further development on our rural villages and whether the roads, schools, healthcare and other infrastructure needed will actually keep pace. Once the consultation closes, I will continue to scrutinise the Plan, speak up for our villages and keep residents updated. You can still take part in the consultation until Friday here: Greater Cambridge Local Plan

Taxi licensing – safety first

At this month's Licensing Committee, we discussed changes to the Council's taxi and private hire licensing policy, ahead of it going to consultation. One area I raised concerns about was moving away from permanent signage on licensed vehicles. I believe passengers should be able to easily identify a properly licensed vehicle, and permanent signage plays an important part in that. While there may be arguments for making plates easier to remove, for me public safety and giving passengers confidence in the vehicle they are getting into must come first. If signage is to become removable, for example magnetic signs, then these could easily be stolen and used by people impersonating taxi drivers which can put members of the public in danger. These proposals will now go out to consultation, so I would encourage residents and the to have their say.

Community grants and funding

There are a number of funding opportunities available for local groups, organisations and parish councils. These grants can support a wide range of community projects - from improving local facilities to running events or environmental initiatives.

I would strongly encourage any local group with an idea or project to explore what funding may be available. More information can be found on the council's website: https://www.scambs.gov.uk/grants-and-funding

Thank you again for taking the time to read this update. If you have any concerns, ideas, or issues you would like to raise, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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