**District Councillor’s Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC November 2018**

**EMAIL ISSUES**

SCDC have been experiencing IT issues that have meant that I am not receiving my councillor emails. The council itself is running the best it can in the current circumstances but please do call me if you are experiencing any problems getting through to SCDC (as officer email accounts, computers and the website have also been affected) and I will do my best to help.

**Ability to build more Council Homes**

Following Government’s Autumn budget, the borrowing cap on the amount authorities can borrow to invest in new council homes will be lifted giving local councils the ability to build more council homes. 100 Council homes have been built in South Cambridgeshire, or have started being constructed, since 2015 however the lifting of this cap will make a key difference in having the capability to build hundreds more council homes in the near future. This is something that I am very pleased to hear as we have a great demand in South Cambs and building council homes must be a priority in my view as I am sure many of my fellow councillors will agree.

**Planning**

We have had two meetings with John Koch, team west leader in the SCDC planning department, and Uzma Ali from the affordable housing team. I would like to thank all who attended. It was a great opportunity to feed back any frustrations along with insights as to how the planning process runs, my thanks go to all who attended and who helped with the organisation.

**Recycling**

Following the Cabinet meeting on 7th November, there will now be a charge for and additional green bins, this is something that I hope does not discourage residents from recycling. Contamination levels are continuing to be a problem, during the course of a year, penalties are in the order of £10,000 a month with about 2,500 tons of waste placed in blue bins going to landfill, residents are always welcome to join our recycling champion programme.

**Let’s Get Moving**

The Mordens will hopefully be benefiting from a Buggycise class under the Lets Get Moving programme which I continue to work with Ellen Bridges SCDC’s Physical Activity Locality Coordinator on and I hope to have more news on this for you soon.

**Overhanging trees or hedges**

Recently many residents of The Mordens have been in contact about overhanging trees or hedges. While the County Council has a responsibility to maintain the grass verges along the many of our roads, the majority of overhanging hedges or bushes belong to private individuals and other landowners. If you have concerns of overhanging bushes or trees, in particular if they are a danger to the public, e.g. if pedestrians are forced to walk out into the road, or signs are obstructed for motorists, and are unable to contact or unsure who the owner is then you can report this using the same tool that is used for reporting potholes and other highway problems: *https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk.* It also shows whether a report has been made and what the status of it is. The County Council can then address the situation, or work with the landowner, to address the issue.

**Cllr Heather Williams**

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