

### **Annual Council**

The Council had its AGM on 22 May and I'm pleased to say I was re-elected as Leader of the Opposition by my group.

As we enter this new municipal year, I delivered my annual statement as Leader of the Opposition to reflect on this past year. It is a proud moment to reflect on our achievements as a council, which have included supporting residents with the cost of living, protecting ancient trees like those in Coton Orchard and committing to supporting rural communities, farmers and businesses.

However, I also felt it was important to call out how negative things have become in South Cambridgeshire, with toxicity and hatred running rife and flying in the face of everyone's hopes for a tolerant society and the council's own commitment to 'debate not hate'. It is important to scrutinise as I have done my best to do – such as with the council's 4-day week, including the public consultation which I did not feel gave people a fair say on how their money continues to be spent on this experiment – but I do feel it is important to scrutinise policy without hating another point of view.

Regarding local government reorganisation, I called for unity to ensure we get the best possible outcome for residents. While one large council instead of multiple smaller ones as we have now will have more resources to tackle problems like adult social care and special educational needs and disabilities, I fear we may lose local representation with fewer councillors representing thousands more people. I am continuing to ask for the same access to information as the council's administration to ensure all residents can be properly represented in this huge change to local democracy.

### **May Elections 2025**

Some of you may know I ran for County Councillor in the Gamlingay Division which covers much of The Mordens ward in May's local elections. While it was disappointing to miss out by just 7 votes, I congratulate those who gained or retained their seats and hope to work

productively with them in the near future. I would also like to congratulate Paul Bristow on being elected Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

### **Meeting with Highways**

I recently met with officers from the Highways team at Cambridgeshire County Council to show them the state of our roads here in The Mordens ward and to speed up fixing our roads. We covered a lot of ground, marking up potholes to be repaired as we went. It was useful to discuss how we can continue to work together effectively to get our roads sorted out and I hope to meet again with the officers on a regular basis.

I am very grateful to the officers for coming out and about with me in our area. We will continue to work together to fix local roads. If you are aware of any potholes near you, please do report it via the County Council's online system using the link in the next section of my report below.

### **Pothole Patrols**

Staying on the topic of roads, many of you will have seen I am continuing to run regular pothole patrols in our area to ensure we get our roads fixed as soon as possible. Please do visit the [reporting page on my website](#) and follow the link to report potholes near you to the County Council, or please do get in touch and I can report it for you.

From my own reporting, I have already received countless emails confirming repairs will be done – so this is working. Together, we can work to get our roads fixed as I truly believe we in rural areas deserve as much investment in our roads as busier roads get in the City.

### **£100,000 Allotment Improvement Grant**

It is pleasing to see the council is supporting local communities' growing projects with the £100,000 Allotment Improvement Grant fund. I would encourage anyone involved in an allotment to take a look at the [council's webpage](#) for more information. The grant can be used to improve water access, install pest control measures or improve facilities.

Please do feel free to get in touch if you would like any further information or assistance and I will help in any way I can.

## **Planning application notifications**

Some people have raised that there have been issues with notifications coming through for planning applications. We have made officers aware of this and it is being looked into. If there are any applications you are aware of where you do not feel the appropriate consultation process has taken place then please do let me know.

## **Street name plates**

If there are any broken or missing street name places, please do let me know and I can get these ordered. I have done this recently in Tadlow in Swan Lane and we have been told this should be in place soon.

## **Grants for community groups and parish councils**

If you are from a local community group or parish council, I am encouraging you to make the most of the council's available grant schemes. The [GrantGrabber service](#) helps you search for available grants – all in one place.

For further information on receiving a grant for a community project from the council, please visit the [grants webpage](#).

Thank you for reading my report. If I can be of any assistance, please do get in touch.

**Cllr Heather Williams**

**SCDC The Mordens Ward**

Tel: 07885 774 775

Email: [cllr.williamsh@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.williamsh@scambs.gov.uk)

Website: [www.cllrheatherwilliams.co.uk](http://www.cllrheatherwilliams.co.uk)

Twitter: @Cllr\_H\_Williams

Facebook Page: Cllr Heather Williams