

District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC

November 2025

Apologies, this month's report is quite a long one this month - it has been a very busy time at SCDC this month. On top of my councillor casework, November saw two extraordinary council meetings, as well as scrutinising the Greater Cambridge Local Plan ahead of the public consultation in December. Here's an update of a few highlights this month.

Local Government Reorganisation

Ahead of November's council meeting I did not promote one business case over another. In my view, the council meeting was the time and place for debate on the business cases, as well as reviewing all the information, the public consultation and survey responses before deciding which case is best for our local residents here in South Cambridgeshire.

I've always been clear on that, unlike the administration who declared their position before the public consultation even closed. I believe it is our job as councillors to act in the best interests of our residents – which means listening to their views and looking at all the details of the business cases before coming to a decision.

This is exactly what I did and decided that Option C was the best choice for residents in South Cambridgeshire. Option C includes South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire. It would allow two local authorities with a similar number of residents, compared to Option B which risks a structurally undersized, city-heavy authority with higher per-resident costs. In my view, Option C would help keep the identity of our rural area with a stronger representation rather than being a minor partner in a city-led council. Option C allows for better regional transport and housing coordination and balances development for villages and market towns alike. It keeps the A14/A428 corridor intact, whereas Option B divides it. With Option C, we could share housing pressures more evenly, avoiding South Cambs becoming the growth overspill zone for Cambridge alone.

At the council meeting in November, I highlighted that Option C provides the best balance of financial strength, rural representation and service sustainability for South Cambridgeshire residents. It keeps South Cambs linked in communities and economies that share its character. Both options, B and C were discussed and debated but the administration voted on B – which comes to no surprise as they have been pushing that option since the summer. Each local authority within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will submit their preferred business case to government, and ultimately, the decision is made by government. Councils have all now had their council meetings and decided on which case to submit. Options A, B, D and E will all be submitted, but I will be writing separately to the government asking them to take Option C into consideration.

Concerns over transparency at the council

Following the letter from Steve Reed MP, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government raising the government's concerns on the 4-day week at South Cambridgeshire District Council, and with the public consultation results in mind, evidencing that residents had little trust in the council, opposition councillors, including myself on South Cambridgeshire District Council forced the administration to hold an extraordinary council meeting.

At this extraordinary meeting, which was called by us specifically to ensure open discussion about how the administration intended to respond to the government following the Secretary of State's letter, frustratingly, the administration voted against our amendment requiring the Council Leader to share minutes and materials from the meeting with the minister.

Despite the meeting being called for transparency, this move to block all councillors and residents across the district the chance to see and hear what happened in this important meeting with the government is very concerning. I remain committed to pushing for full transparency and ensuring residents are fully informed about decisions that affect their day-to-day lives and council spending.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

Hopefully you are all aware of the upcoming public consultation on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Taking part in the public consultation is a vital opportunity for residents, workers, and community groups to shape the future of where they live and work. The Local Plan will guide decisions on housing, transport, green spaces, climate action, and infrastructure for years to come, influencing how towns and villages grow and develop. By sharing your views, you help ensure that planning decisions reflect local knowledge, priorities, and real-life needs - rather than being based only on statistics or distant assumptions.

This week both South Cambs District Council and Cambridge City Council held a joint Cabinet meeting to agree to the proposed plan to go to public consultation. The public consultation is running from 1st December for 8 weeks. You can find out more information and how to take part in the consultation here: [Greater Cambridge Local Plan: the 20-year master plan for the Greater Cambridge area](#)

B1042 update

Although highways is an issue for the county council, many of us have safety concerns of the B1042. I wrote to the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council at the start of November asking for an update and for improvements. I received a report back and confirmation that the county council inspects the route for safety defects quarterly, as well inspecting the reports submitted by residents online. I urge anyone with any concerns on this route, with any known problems to report it using the Council's Highways Reporting Tool. The more voices we can have on this, the better chance we have for improvements. You can report any faults here: [Report a highways fault | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Calls for safety improvements on the A505

Many of us are concerned about the A505 and frustrated that nothing seems to be being done to make it safer.

After writing to the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council in July this year, I've written to her again this week calling for urgent action. This is a dangerous stretch of road and safety improvements are needed, now.

I've asked for them to hold a meeting with all councillors - county, district and parish, across the county boundaries, to be updated on the full range of road safety considerations for the A505, including current collision data, findings from the hazardous site review, and the next steps the County Council is considering to improve safety along this route.

Street name plates

I want to take this opportunity to remind residents that it is the district council who is responsible for replacing and maintaining street name plates. I recently requested a new street name plate in Tadlow for Swanns Close, which is now in place. If you know of any broken or missing street name plates in The Mordens Ward, please do get in touch with me so I can help to get it replaced as quickly as possible.

Grants for community groups and parish councils

If you are from a local community group or parish council, the council has a number of various grants available, so I am encouraging you to make the most of the council's available grant schemes. For information on grants available for a community project from the council, please visit <https://www.scambsgov.uk/grants-and-funding>

Reminder for postal vote renewals

The rules brought in by the Elections Act 2022 means that if you are a postal voter you have to renew your postal vote every 3 years. This means that if you completed a postal vote application before October 2023, you will need to renew it by January 2026 at the latest in order to remain a postal voter for the district council elections in May 2026.

The easiest way for residents to re-apply is online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote, but the council can send paper forms to anyone who needs them. Please email elections@scambsgov.uk if you have any questions.

Bin collection days over Christmas and throughout January

Ahead of a typical busy and festive month next month, I want to give you a head start and provide you with the bin collection days over Christmas and into the new year.

There are a couple of changes over Christmas and New Year for you to be aware of:

Monday 22nd December

Friday 2nd January

Thursday 8th January

Thursday 15th January

Thursday 22nd January

Thursday 29th January

If you've managed to get this far, thank you very much for reading my report. If I can be of any assistance, please do get in touch.

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