

District Councillors' 'Milton and Waterbeach' Ward Annual Report 2022

Waterbeach

Covid Support

At the end of this municipal year we reflect back on a period with a degree of return to normality as we move hopefully to a more post Covid world. As a council we have continued to support the district with the recovery of the community and businesses. Waterbeach businesses benefited from some of the £43.9 million in government grants that the Council distributed to support their recovery from Covid. The Reopening the High Streets team handled over 1,500 in-person visits and around 300 enquiries or complaints, interacting with 3,000 businesses throughout the district.

Environment

The ever popular Zero Carbon Community grant scheme is now open for its fourth round of grant applications with specific focuses on reducing carbon emissions or locking up carbon, and on community engagement on climate change. If you have a project in mind do get in touch with any of us as local members for endorsement and support. In the last round of funding, St John's church were successful in applying for the maximum grant to replace the church hall heating system with a low carbon heat pump.

Planning and Local Plan

The Council continues to maintain a five-year housing land supply which for the next year (April to April) is 6.5 years. This means that as a planning authority we have far more control over where development should go, in the right places with amenities provided, and in accordance with the adopted Local Plan. At the same time we continue to work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan which is at the First Proposal stage in the process. Development will be in the right places, close to jobs and good transport links, as new towns are built out (within the current Local Plan's allocation) and only nineteen new sites are being proposed safeguarding villages. There are no new proposed sites within the ward.

With support from South Cambs the Waterbeach Neighbourhood was 'made'. After many years of work this is a tremendous achievement by everyone involved and will help to guide planning decisions throughout Waterbeach as it grows. The Neighbourhood Plan contains 24 policies. These have a legal status that will need to be considered when planning applications are brought forward for review. The Neighbourhood Plan area extends from north of Chittering to south of Car Dyke and from the A10 to the river Cam. The whole of Waterbeach New Town is within this area. Supporting evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan includes a Design Principles document, a Heritage and Character Assessment Document, a Housing Needs Assessment Report, and a Demographic and Socio-economic review. Anyone with an interest in planning matters in Waterbeach should read the plan.

Ukrainian refugees

The council has recently been supporting people in Waterbeach to host Ukrainian refugees. There is a considerable amount of work in ensuring suitability of accommodation and supporting both the hosts and refugees. South Cambs has amongst the highest, if not the highest, number of refugees housed per head of population under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

District wide summary of the past four years

WE HAVE ACHIEVED

levels 1 and 2 of the disability standard,

WE HAVE SET UP

7 new mobile warden schemes

a Lifeline service for vulnerable people

a homes repair service.

19 Liaison forums and 9 community forums

covid groups in all 106 villages and towns with in the first 3 weeks covid.

WE HAVE ADOPTED

a new equality scheme,

a Biodiversity strategy,

Doubling Nature Strategy

Zero Carbon strategy.

an Air quality strategy

WE HAVE MOVED

10 council services online with a further 12 to follow

WE HAVE HELPED

14 at risk councils to create flood management plans

set up local markets

1000 people onto UC.

4 start-up businesses find premises

3 Syrian refugee families a year find a home

8 Afganistani families find a home

2000 businesses with visits from our High Streets Team

2000 Business receiving our Open for Business Newsletter

WE HAVE CREATED

a toolkit for community led plans

community recycling and waste reduction resource pack

the On Your Doorstep campaign to help local shops

WE HAVE RUN

7 Wild Minds schemes to support young people with mental health issues.

9 webinars for business during the pandemic including on mental health

WE HAVE GIVEN

£43.9 million in government Covid grants

£78,000 to support work with young people.

70 grants to covid groups

£58,000 in Community Chest grants a year

Zero Carbon Community grants totalling over £300,000

free trees grants for almost 600 trees

£1.4 mil to 102 businesses and start-ups to help them grow.

£164,000 to voluntary groups

900 hot meals over the covid Christmas period

WE HAVE MADE

£5mil per year from our investments and saved £200,000 per year.

WE HAVE BOUGHT

Northstowe Enterprise Zone and will develop it to create 500 jobs by 2025

A Plot Cambourne to build specialist offices for start up

Land in Cambourne to build over 200 energy efficient homes.

3 electric bin lorries

mobile air quality monitors

spy cameras to reduce fly tipping

WE HAVE LAUNCHED

a Visit South Cambs website

WE HAVE CHANGED

all our streetlights to LEDs

WE HAVE BUILT

189 council houses

WE HAVE SPENT

£1.5 mil to make council houses energy efficient

WE ARE GOING TO

commit 10% of next year's budget to the environment.

build a sports pavilion at Northstowe.

a new community centre and the Civic Hub in Northstowe.

further increase recycling rates and reduce food waste

set a balanced budget.

install powered EV charging

WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS

DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation