

# Waterbeach Parish Council

*Clerk:* **Shelley Mason**

*Tel:* 01223 441338

*E-mail:* [council@waterbeach.org.uk](mailto:council@waterbeach.org.uk)

**The Old Pavilion  
Recreation Ground  
Cambridge Road  
Waterbeach  
Cambridge  
CB25 9NJ**

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24 February 2020

Cllr Bridget Smith  
Leader, South Cambridgeshire District Council  
South Cambridgeshire Hall  
Cambourne  
Cambridge  
CB23 6EA

Dear Cllr Smith

Waterbeach Parish Council is very concerned about the proposed changes to who decided whether planning applications will go to the SCDC Planning Committee for discussion. It had been the Parish Council's understanding that if a Parish Council sent in a request, with good planning reasons, that an application should go to Planning Committee, then this would happen. Waterbeach has had to contend with a rash of developments when SCDC had an insufficient 5 year housing provision and now has a major development on the strategic site north of the village. This means that any significant development can compromise the basis (eg traffic, access etc) on which previous applications were allowed and such considerations need to be openly discussed.

The Parish Council is not satisfied that the agreed change to transfer the authority to make all decisions for when decisions on planning applications are delegated, rather than going to Council, to a single unaccountable officer is appropriate. It removes the opportunities for our elected District Councillors to support Parish Councillors in getting wider consideration of crucial applications and should be rejected.

WPC requests that the consequences of this change are reviewed after 6 months to ensure that appropriate decisions are being made.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Grant".

**pp Cllr Kate Grant**  
**Chair of WPC Planning Committee**