

## **A View from the District (September 2011)**

The joint committee which oversees the NIAB development met on 10 August, largely to decide on the removal of Condition 46 to the planning permission for NIAB 1. This restricted the number of dwellings to 350 until substantial improvements were made to the A14: its removal would permit the entire site to be developed. The developers have run new traffic modelling and claim this makes the condition unnecessary, and the Highway Authority has agreed.

I questioned the evidential basis of the modelling and argued that one major concern should be traffic levels on the Huntingdon Road. Rather to my surprise my comments sparked an extensive debate, continuing even though after about 90 minutes the legal officer ruled that the committee now had no power to retain the Condition. Eventually the discharge was approved unanimously but it is good to see the members taking Girton concerns so seriously.

After a very uncertain year, under new leadership our Climate Change Working Group is beginning to make a difference. We had a detailed investigation of our proposed Climate Change Action Plan and agreed to propose it for adoption by Council. One aspect of it is the installation of solar PV panels on the roof of the SCDC building which is already at an advanced planning stage. However, the whole Plan crucially depends on staff availability and in these days of swingeing staff cuts this will continue to be a concern.

We were reminded of the current Government's initiative to encourage renewable energy with a £300 grant towards solar thermal roof panels. This is available on a first-come-first-served basis until March next year (or until funds run out).

Negotiations continue between SCDC Officers and Taylor-Wimpey over the details of the hand-over of the public land at Wellbrook. Regular briefings suggest these are going well. The proposed deadline is November, and by then I hope the Parish may also be in a position to finalise the purchase of the extra SCDC land there too, though problems remain.

Plans for the redevelopment of the bungalow at 25 Hicks Lane proved very controversial and went before the planning committee on 7 September. I spoke about glaring inaccuracies in the applicant's documents, and the incongruity of such an ultra-modern design in this location. The committee was evenly split, and the chairman (who had already expressed a liking for metal roofs and modern architecture) decided the issue with a casting vote in favour.

At the request of residents I set up and chaired a meeting to establish a Wellbrook Way Residents' Association. A small but dedicated group has now done just that, and I hope this will be well supported by all residents. I have asked the Parish Council to approve it, but the Association will be independent of both the Parish and District Councils.

I was informed by a resident of Orchard Close that a build-up of rubbish was harbouring rats, and referred the matter to Environmental Health. After a detailed inspection they determined that the problem is actually overgrown and unkempt gardens nearby. They are not in a position to do wide-ranging searches for vermin, but if you have evidence of a clear rat-trail or location of a nest they will come and clear them (though please note this is now a charged service).

South Cambs DC is hosting an open day on Friday 7 October in the square outside its Cambourne offices. From 9.30 to 4.30 officers from various of our services will be available to explain their function and answer questions.

The Council has also produced a booklet detailing all the community transport schemes in the area and how you can access them. Copies are available from the South Cambs website, at the Parish office and the doctors' surgery.

If you would like a fuller monthly report emailed to you please contact me at [scdc@de-lacey.org](mailto:scdc@de-lacey.org) and I shall add you to the list of recipients. If you have any District Council issues you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to ask me.

Douglas de Lacey  
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