

Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting – July 2022

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Spaldwick residents for their support in the recent District Council elections.

I was re elected as the Councillor for the Alconbury ward which includes Spaldwick with 63% of the vote and a majority of 284

As you will be aware, the District Council has gone from Conservative control to No Overall Control. The Council is now run by a Joint administration of Lib Dem, Independent, Labour and Green Councillors. The Leader of the Council is Cllr Sarah Conboy.

Following the May elections there are many new councillors, especially in the new joint administration, who will need time to get up to speed with the workings of the Council.

With regard to the Planning application for the Land east of Ivy Way 22/01167/FUL, an incorrect notice was put up adjacent to the site, this has now be rectified and as a consequence the consultation on the planning application will last to the 6th August. All previous comments on the application will be taken into account.

I will not make any further comment on the Planning application as I am a member of the Development Management Committee, as I must not prejudge the application in case it should come to DMC

Following this year's elections I now sit on the following Committees on the District Council, Overview and Scrutiny Performance & Growth & the Development Management Committee.

New Shire Hall at Alconbury Weald was officially opened on Friday 8th July by the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Stephen Ferguson and pupils from Alconbury Cof E Primary School. A cake in the shape of the CC Logo was made for the occasion by former Great British Bake Off Contestant Ian Cummings.

New Shire Hall forms part of a new Hub and Spoke model to deliver services closer to the communities they serve. This will save the public purse over 50m. Part of this sale was the sale of the Leasehold of old Shire Hall for conversion into offices and a hotel and can be purchased back by the County Council for a £1 in 40 years time.

From July the County Council will be holding all its Council Meetings, including the Full Council at New Shire Hall in Alconbury Weald.

The main meeting rooms in New Shire Hall have been named after birds commonly seen in Cambridgeshire. The Multi Function Room/ Council Chamber will be known as the Red Kite Room.

Cambridgeshire CC is to spend 60m on expanding and enhancing provision for Children with Special Needs (SEND)

Two new schools will be built within the next two years at Alconbury Weald and Gamlingay for children with Special Needs

The recently published 2021 Census shows that Cambridgeshire has seen one of the biggest population increases over the last ten years.

Overall the number of people living within the County rose by more than 57,000 in the last decade to 678,600. This is a 9.2% rise, which is higher than the East of England average. The national picture shows the east is the fastest growing region in the UK

These figures confirm the County Councils contention over many years that the previous Office of National Statistics figures, on which it bases its grant allocations, were under estimating the size of the County's population.

Within these figures the number of people 65+ in the County rose by 26% against the National average of 18.6%

Huntingdon Library are making more space for young people. The new young Adult area was officially launched on Wednesday 6th July. The area will be bigger, more comfortable, offer more privacy and will feature more relevant book titles for young adults, using #BookTok. New services suggested by local young adults will also be launched.

Just a reminder that the A1 between Buckden roundabout and the Brampton Hut interchange and Wyboston will be closed periodically in each direction, plus the full or partial closure of the Buckden roundabout, to allow for resurfacing , road stud replacement and white lining. This work is anticipated to last six weeks from 20th June until 01 August . This will consist of four weeks total weeknight working between 8pm and 6am and 24/7 across three weekends.

I have a meeting with Alan Trille the National Highways Route manager for the A14 tomorrow , who will update on the situation regarding the A14 and its junctions etc between Ellington and Thrapston.

If you have any question's please do not hesitate to contact preferably by email on lan.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County Councillor for Alconbury & Kimbolton

