

Green Bins

Collections are returning to normal, with thanks being expressed to residents for their cooperation around the disruption to service. In relation to Food waste bags I am in the process of ordering a bulk load from SCDC and will be able to resume delivering these to residents shortly. Please do let me know if yourselves or others need the food waste bags, they are £3.00 for 50 bags.

Planning

Many residents, both applicants and affected neighbours have had issues with being able to receive updates on planning applications. Some Parish Councils have also been experiencing difficulties. As we are working in difficult times at present, I have asked for a regular meeting with the team leader for The Mordens ward, in order to raise any issues. I would ask that if the parish council, or residents of whom you are aware of, are experiencing difficulties then please do raise them with me and I will speak with officers on your behalf. Planning Committee continues to meet more frequently to help progress with a backlog of planning applications.

2018 Accounts

At the last Audit and Corporate Governance Committee we were able to finally sign off the March 2018 year end accounts (that were due in July 2018). The reasons for the delay of nearly 2 years has been associated as resources issues both internal at SCDC and with the external auditors. I have continued to raise the need for resourcing the finance department adequately, as while there is no fixed penalty for a Local Authority being late with their accounts, there will be extra external audit fee costs potentially of a 6 figure sum, this I did raise back in 2018 when the troubles around the accounts began. Subsequently the March 2019 accounts are yet to come to the committee, though I hope that these will be available shortly, and the March 2020 accounts are also late. It is hoped the council may be able to recover its timetable in order for the March 2021 accounts to be on time.

Investment Strategy

The SCDC Administration continues to implement its Investment Strategy despite the change in circumstances. This has concerned myself and others, so when the cabinet agreed to purchase 2 further commercial properties for their portfolio I, with support from other councillors called in one of the acquisitions, however this was unsuccessful and the purchase went ahead. At full council it was also agreed that SCDC would enter into two Limited Liability Partnerships. For confidentiality reasons, as the meeting involved the exclusion of press and public for these decisions, I am unable to provide any details other than I voted against such proposals.

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