

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

FULL COUNCIL (17 OCTOBER)

Waste and street cleaning

The Council agreed unanimously to implement new waste collection arrangements by 31 March 2025. These include

- Separate food waste containers, collected weekly
- Replacement of black sacks with a 180l wheeled bin, emptied fortnightly
- Removal of annual subscription charge for second green bin
- Removal of one-off charge for second blue bin

New local plan

The Council has finally agreed to start a new local plan, replacing the current one which is nearly nine years old. We have been pressing for this for a long time.

The plan will be developed at breakneck speed, as the council wants to use the existing style of local plan, which must be prepared and submitted for independent examination by December 2026. If this deadline is not met, the council will need to commence a new-style local plan—the process for which will not be published until summer next year at the earliest. There will be a minimum three rounds of public consultation before any new Local Plan is finalised, the first of which should be before summer 2025.

Sea toilets

Lorna seconded a proposal from Ely East Lib Dem councillor Kathrin Holtzmann, seeking a ban from the Environment Agency on emptying boats' 'sea toilets' directly into the Great Ouse. We still can't believe that this is permitted!

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

East Cambridgeshire District Council will be working in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council to jointly fund a full time Housing First project worker dedicated to providing one to one support for homeless people with multiple or complex needs.

And in other news, from 1 November the council will also be taking over the management of East Cambs housing register from Sanctuary. The housing register is a record of everyone who has applied to be considered for a home owned by a social landlord, usually a housing association.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

This current round of government funding, available until the end of March 2025, aims to support households struggling to meet essential housing costs including food, energy bills and other essential items. The council can apply to the fund on residents' behalf, as well as offering advice and support with completing applications.

Residents in East Cambridgeshire can seek help by calling 01353 665555 or visiting the Community Advice drop-ins at The Grange in Ely Monday to Friday 10:00AM to 4:00PM, Wednesdays at Soham Library 10:00AM to midday, and Littleport Library 10:00AM to midday every Friday.

You do not have to be in receipt of benefits to get help. If you are in receipt of benefits, they will not be affected if you receive a payment from the Fund.

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY FUND

Community groups are being urged to apply for grants of up to £1000 being offered by East Cambridgeshire District Council. The money can be spent on new or existing projects designed to improve the quality of life for residents.

The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund will be open to applications between 28 October and 9 December 2024.

PLANNING

Garden Close Sutton

Abbey Homes have submitted a variation to their application for land at Garden Close, proposing to remove all affordable housing from the development.

Planning Department

The council has advertised nine posts in its planning department, including a postholder with responsibility for the development of the new local plan.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The following meetings are scheduled for November.

- Planning Committee, Wednesday 6 November
 - Operational Services, Monday 18 November
 - Audit Committee, Tuesday 19 November
 - Licensing Committee, Wednesday 20 November
 - Finance & Assets, Thursday 28 November
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MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Our next surgeries will take place in the Community Room at Sutton School:

- Monday 4 November, 6:30-7:30PM
- Monday 2 December, 6:30-7:30PM

Between surgeries, residents can contact us by email, Facebook, or phone.

Lorna also hopes to be at the Sutton Timebank coffee morning on Tuesday 19 November 10:00-11:00.

Cllr Lorna Dupré

Cllr Mark Inskip

District Councillors for the Sutton ward