

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2025

NEW COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Council on Wednesday 11 December established new arrangements for the council's committees, which see decisions at almost all meetings come down to the casting vote of the chair.

The change follows the formation of a new Liberal Democrat & Independent Group with fourteen members—the same number as the ruling Conservatives.

PLANNING

24/00340/RMM Vistry Phase 2, Mepal Road Sutton

The Planning Committee on 6 December approved the reserved matters (detail) of the Phase 2 application for the Vistry development at the top of Mepal Road.

As local councillors, we made further written representations about our concerns over flood and water management on the site, but were unsuccessful in this. The developers noted that

- The foul water and SuDs systems are to be adopted by Anglian Water.
 - Highways are to be adopted, unlike Phase 1, with limited areas of private drives.
 - They will be required to contribute to road works off Mepal Road and offsite.
 - They expect to be able to get on site in March 2025.
 - The housing association for the site is Home Group.
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FREE EVENT FOR EAST CAMBS LANDLORDS

A free event for landlords on Dealing with damp and mould will take place on Monday 13 January from 1:00 to 5:00PM at The Maltings in Ely. Register by email ProjectResidential@cambridge.gov.uk before 5:00PM on Thursday 9 January.

NEW WEBSITE

The council's new website is now up and running at <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/>. It may be that if you have saved links directly to individual pages on the old site, they will no longer work.

COMMUNITY POLICING MEETINGS

The Community Policing Team for East Cambridgeshire is advertising a series of quarterly online meetings for residents of the district.

The meetings will take place at 7:00PM on

- Thursday 9 January
- Wednesday 9 April
- Wednesday 9 July
- Wednesday 8 October

Book by email (subject 'EAST CAMBS') to communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk

RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST

Residents and businesses are being asked for their views on the proposed Rural Settlement List for 2025/2026. The list is made up of 41 rural settlements in East Cambridgeshire with a population of less than 3,000.

Businesses operating within the boundaries of these settlements will not pay business rates if they are:

- the only village shop or post office, with a rateable value of up to £8,500
- the only pub or petrol station, with a rateable value of up to £12,500

Larger settlements in the district such as Ely, Soham, Littleport, Burwell, Sutton, and Fordham do not appear on the list.

You can access the proposed list online at <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/about-council/consultations/rural-settlement-list-2025-2026>

If you have any comments on the list, for example, whether a settlement should be removed or added, please let the council know by 5:00PM on Thursday 6 March 2025, by emailing sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk or by writing to Sally Bonnett at East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely CB7 4EE.

Please provide as much evidence as possible to explain why you think a change is needed. Following the consultation, a final list will be prepared and published for the financial year 2025/26.

EAST CAMBS PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE

The next East Cambs Parish Conference will take place on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at Littleport Leisure Centre. Specific event times are to be confirmed at a

later date, but are expected to be approximately 10:00AM-3:00PM. Lunch will be provided free of charge.

The event will consist of several presentations in the morning on the subject of *The role of local councils in supporting their residents' health and wellbeing*, and *Supporting local young people*, followed by lunch. In the afternoon there will be a number of stalls showcasing a variety of topics, many of which have been suggested by parish councils.

Parish councils have been invited to have their own stall to promote their projects to other parish councils. This format provides an opportunity for parish councils to engage with and learn from each other by sharing best practice and successes.

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

January

- Planning Committee. Wednesday 15 January
- Licensing Committee, Wednesday 22 January
- Finance & Assets, Thursday 30 January

February

- Audit Committee. Monday 3 February
- Planning Committee, Wednesday 5 February
- Licensing Committee, Wednesday 12 February
- Full Council, Tuesday 25 February (budget meeting)
- Full Council, Thursday 27 February (reserve date)

The Operational Services Committee meeting advertised for Monday 27 January has been cancelled.

The council plans to set its budget on Tuesday 25 February.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

We will be in the Sutton school Community Room on Monday 6 January and Monday 3 February at 6:30-7:30PM.

Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email, Facebook, or phone. Happy new year!

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District Councillors for the Sutton ward
(Mepal, Sutton, Wentworth, and Witcham)