

**Parish Clerk**

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**NOTICE OF MEETING:****TIME:****Full Council****7.30pm****DATE:****28<sup>th</sup> January 2025****VENUE:****The Pavilion, The Brook, Sutton.**

Planning applications: All applications can be viewed at [www.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/), then putting the application number in the search bar.

Minutes of the meeting of Sutton Parish Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in The Pavilion, The Brook, Sutton.

**Present:** Mr M Inskip Mr B Browne Mr B Goodjohn Mr M Butler  
Mr N Oakland Mrs S Partington

**Public:** None Present **Clerk:** Mr P Harty

**MINUTES**

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

**MEMBERS:** 15

**QUORUM:** 5

**Vacancies:** 7

**A G E N D A****136/25 To receive and note apologies for absence.**

Apologies received and noted by Council from Mr A Newton and Mr L Jordan

**137/25 To receive declarations of interest**

- a) Councillors to declare any personal interest in any items on the agenda
- b) Councillors to declare any prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda and to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter during public participation.
- c) Councillors to declare any pecuniary interest in any items on the agenda.

None Declared.

**138/25 Public Participation**

To adjourn the meeting for up to 10 minutes to allow any members of the public and Councillors declaring a prejudicial interest to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting.

No Public In Attendance

**139/25 To Consider the Co Option of ONE Parsh Councillor.**

Mrs Linda Kirby applied to join the Council and gave a short presentation about herself and why she would like to join the Council.

It was proposed by Mr M Inskip and seconded by Mr B Goodjohn and resolved unanimously to co-opt Mrs Kirby to the Council.

Clerk to arrange for Councillor email and training.

**140/25 To approve the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (Attached)**

Proposed by Cllr Goodjohn and seconded by Cllr Oakland that the presented minutes were a true reflection of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Agreed by all present with a show of hands except for one abstention.

**141/25 Community Safety Forum Presentation**

Joanne Androw gave a short presentation on the Community Safety Forum.

It was proposed by Cllr Inskip and seconded by Cllr Goodjohn to hold a Community Safety Forum in Sutton.

Agreed by all with a show of hands.

Clerk to arrange dates and venue for some time in March 2025.

**142/25 To receive and note the Project Chart and Action Plan (attached)**

Noted by Council

**143/25 To receive reports in relation to Sutton from:**

1. Cllr Lorna Dupre – Cambridgeshire County Council
2. Cllr Lorna Dupre & Cllr Mark Inskip – East Cambridgeshire District Council

Clerk to place on Website

**144/25 Finance**

**1. To approve payments.**

Online Payments

January 2025	Salaries & expenses	£8838.92
January 2025	Cambs Pension Fund	£890.11
Veolia Ltd	Easi-bins	£168.55
The Copier Warehouse	Photocopying	£117
SSE	Elec	£319.43
SSE	Gas	£1022.44
Gowing and Hunt	Cooker Install Pavilion	£192
SLCC	Membership	£240
TrueLink Ltd	Grass Cutting	£330.40
Centra Data	Computer Support/Microsoft	£270.19
MS Electrical	Light Repair/PAT Test	£64
Rialtas	Training	£84
BT	Phone	£407.93
Parish Online	Membership	£108
Cambs ACRE	Membership	£86.40
ESPO	Cleaning/Office Supplies	£136.62
CAPALC	Budget/Administration	£157.50
TJ Flooring	Entrance Mat Glebe	£50

Direct Debits

ECDC	Non-domestic rates (Jan)	£645
Lloyds	Multipay	£43.29
Wavenet	Mobile Phones	£125.89
SSE	Street Lights	£249.08
B & CE	Peoples Pension	£206.47
HMRC	Tax & NIC	£1850.70
ICO	Registration	£35

Proposed by Cllr Inskip and seconded by Cllr Butler to approve payments. Agreed by all with a show of hands.  
**145/25 Finance Working Party Report**

To receive notes from the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 (attached)

Received and Noted by Council

**146/25 Planning**

**1. Planning approvals –**

- a. Installation of an air source heat pump – 7 Stimpson St, Sutton. 24/01112/FUL APPROVED – To be noted only.
- b. New Front Door to the adopted highway – 6 Garden Close, Sutton. 24/01166/FUL APPROVED – To be noted only

**2. Appeals/Variations –**

- a. Relocation of septic tank previously approved 24/0001/FUL The Orchards, Sutton. 24/01233/VAR – Variation APPROVED – To be noted only.

**3. Planning Applications –**

- a. Outline application 2 dwellings (re submission of 22/01044/OUT). 44 The Row, Sutton. Ref 24/01345/OUT.  
Noted by Council.

**4. Tree Consents –**

- a. T1 Silver Birch 8 High Street, Sutton 24/00765/TPO. Consent given – To be noted only
- b. T1 Birch 56 High Street, Sutton. Remove Birch and replace with Rowan 24/01237/TRE. Consent given – To be noted only

**147/25 Consider and Approve Insurance for 2025/26 (Comparison Information Attached)**

Quote 1 £5950.49 cost for 1 yr deal and 3 yr deal  
Quote 2 £6182.78 1 Yr Deal. £5596.71 3 Yr Deal  
Quote 3 £Not Yet Received

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Oakland and seconded by Cllr Butler to accept Quote 2 on a 3-year deal pending Quote 3. If Quote 3 was comparable and cheaper then Clerk to agree Quote 3 at discretion. Agreed by all present with show of hands.

**148/25 Update: Solar Panels at The Glebe**

Awaiting outcome of Grant Application – to be noted only.

Noted

**149/25 Fenland Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation**

Noted with no comments made.

**150/25 Update: Bowls Club Footpath.**

Awaiting outcome of Grant Application – to be noted only.

Noted

**151/25 EV Chargers – Update (attached)**

Clerk to contact Believ asking for more information on lease with associated costs, fees, rentals.  
Once received to be sent to Solicitors.

**152/25 Consider and Approve New Phone Contract.**

It was proposed by Cllr Browne and seconded by Cllr Oakland to accept the new 3 year deal offered by Aerial. All councillors present agreed by a show of hands. Deal is £76 +vat per month rising annually by £1.50 per phone each year. Deal includes 6gb data, unlimited minutes and 6 x Samsung Galaxy A16 phones for staff use only.

**153/25 Consider Grant Application (Attached)**

Grant application from Sutton Feast – Proposed by Cllr Inskip and seconded by Cllr Goodjohn and agreed by all to approve grant application.  
Clerk to arrange payment and to move £499.55 from Contingencies into Grant budget.

**154/25 Government Consultation: 'Strengthening The Standards and Conduct Framework For Local Authorities in England'**

Noted by Council. Councillors to make own response should they wish.

**155/25 Matters as Agenda Items for Future Consideration**

- a. Sutton Pools - help with ditch clearance at Old Rec.
- b. 20mph Scheme

**156/25 Date of Next Meeting(s)**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Full Council  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Full Council  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 - Full Council  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Meeting of the Electorate  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Annual Meeting of Parish Council and Full Council Meeting

Meeting Closed at 8.45pm

Please have any items you wish to be considered for the next agenda to the Clerk by the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Signed.....  
Chairman

Date.....



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# PROJECT AND ACTION PLAN

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Full Council – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025



February 2025  
SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL  
The Glebe, 4 High Street, Sutton, Ely, Cambs

# 2025 – Sutton Parish Council Project and Action chart

As at: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Date	Priority Level	Detail	Budget	Progress	Completed
27.10.20 Min 90/20/2/i	M	<b>Transfer of land to provide path between St Andrews Close and The Orchards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instruct Solicitor</li> <li>Obtain all paperwork for solicitor.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invoice received and once paid we will get the paperwork finalised (14.10) Waiting for confirmation on ownership.</li> <li>Chased 11/1/2021</li> <li>Chased 19/01/2021 Solicitor should be making the final land transfer application have emailed twice to confirm no reply (24.03)</li> <li>Other solicitor now querying Map, so awaiting further contact from our solicitor, the application has not been submitted to Land Registry (14.04)</li> <li>Further chased on 28.06.21 as have heard nothing from the solicitors, chased again on 14/7 he is on annual leave until 19/7 – Chase if nothing by 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Chased 22.7 Chased 4/8 if not contact by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> call to speak to them</li> <li>16/08/2021 – Solicitors haven't heard from other sols and have been snowed under with other work.</li> <li>14/09/21 – Final plan received from other solicitors and will now be sent to Land Registry to transfer the land. Awaiting timescale from our solicitor</li> <li>Melissa chased Solicitor for an update 14.10.21</li> <li>Solicitors have advised Land Registry are still taking almost a year to sort Transfers of Part. They have tried to prompt/chase them but unfortunately, they do not expedite unless you have an active sale.</li> </ul>	Complete. To go to working party for discussion.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melissa requested an update from solicitor as nearly a year since application sent to Land registry 08.08.22</li> <li>• Been advised that the solicitor has tried to prompt land registry but without a sale or other dealing they simply process in order. 10.08.22</li> <li>• Chased and advised the process can take over a year, Office to look to see if we can get details and chase Land Registry ourselves. 30.11.22</li> <li>• Solicitor will look to see if they can expedite the application. 02.03.23</li> <li>• Transfer of land all completed and land registry confirmation received on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</li> <li>• Traffic and Transport working Party to review options at next working party meeting.</li> <li>• Survey set up online and consultation letter prepared</li> <li>• Survey completed and sent out with Newsletter to houses the path would be used by 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023</li> <li>• Data and responses to be given to the TTWP to review once collated.</li> <li>• Clerk to obtain quotes and item to be added to Agenda in Feb 2024 – Awaiting site visits.</li> <li>• As of 13/3/24 2 quotes have been obtained. 4 Companies contacted 2 have quoted and 2 have declined. To go to WP.</li> </ul> <p>TRAFFIC &amp; TRANSPORT WP Next meeting 20/2/24 – to report back at March 25 meeting</p>	Yes Yes	
	M	<p>Picnic Benches for open spaces and recreation ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	CIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at options of octagonal benches for park and old rec, preferably recycled durable plastic or metal. Prices given to SRWP. More details on the costs on fixing of the picnic tables requested – We need to know where these are to be installed and onto what ground so calculations can be made. – WP need to provide more specific details. 4/8 – Asked working party for more specific info as to what benches will be</li> </ul>	

				<p>purchased, if they are going to be on hard standing or grass 4/8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk to get 3 quotes once WP decide</li> <li>• <b>Currently on Hold</b></li> <li>• <b>SPORTS &amp; RECREATION WP</b></li> </ul>	
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24 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	M	<b>EV – Charging points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide charging points for The Glebe and Pavilion.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk to sign Non-disclosure agreement (Bellev)</li> <li>• Clerk to contact Roger Taylor (Solicitor)</li> <li>• Roger Taylor emailed 15/2/24 – awaiting response.</li> <li>• Non Disclosure resigned by Clerk and emailed to Bellevue. 21/2/24</li> <li>• Currently awaiting solicitors to respond to email for help with contracts.</li> <li>• Solicitors have responded with concerns over 20 year lease/rent. Passed to Luke for comment.</li> <li>• Solicitors now retained. Have been instructed to look at a break clause after 10 years.</li> <li>• Clerk has spoken to Bellevue who will now start to survey proposed locations to finalise exact locations.</li> <li>• Update – CCC are offering fully funded EV Charge points – Clerk to investigate – Meeting with CCC 23/4/24</li> <li>• Clerk reported back to Council re CCC charge points</li> <li>• Solicitors instructed to talk to Bellevue re break clause in contract.</li> <li>• Currently awaiting contracts</li> <li>• Awaiting RBL to come back re using 4 spaces in their agreement for charge points.</li> <li>• Bellevue will go ahead with charge points at Glebe whilst awaiting RBL.</li> <li>• Bellevue have requested Deeds for relevant areas. Clerk</li> </ul>	Yes Yes
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				<p>to provide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>RBL have proposed area for Disabled Bay – area opposite entrance. Clerk to look at and report back.</li><li>Still no contract – Clerk to chase Solicitors.</li><li>RBL have suggested locating 2 to 3 disabled bays in front of the building on the grass area.</li><li>To go to Full Council.</li><li>Awaiting Minutes from Meeting held 30/9/24</li><li>Believ have contacted the PC saying they will not currently be going ahead with the Chargers at RBL but will be at the Glebe – if suitable demand will revisit RBL location</li><li>Clerk to obtain full detailed plan for installation and bring back to PC</li><li>Clerk to contact Believ and make sure the bike racks moving will be at their cost. Confirmed by Believ they will pay for racks.</li><li>Full Council to approve lease and plan.</li><li>Awaiting Believ to come back with full contract</li></ul>	Yes Yes
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Glebe installation 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022</li><li>Pavilion and Brooklands installation</li><li>Awaiting bollards and mesh flooring (No date given) Chased 16/06</li><li>Contractors came to install the bollards, however after reviewing with the parish clerk, they will be coming back when they have found a better solution for the installation taking into account the resin car park. 02.08.22, No mention of Mesh at Pavilion</li><li>No updates from CCC regarding Pavilion or Glebe, office to chase 18.10.22</li><li>Pavilion and RBL bike stands have had the Geogrid installed and area made neat.</li><li>To chase CCC about the Glebe stands and rectifying the surrounds to the surfacing.</li></ul>	yes



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey active now – once complete to go to Working Party. Survey now closed.</li> <li>Traffic and Transport Working Party WP Next meeting 20/2/24 – to report back at March 25 meeting</li> </ul>	
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2022		Library Access Point		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New working party formed to discuss project</li> <li>23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 – Working party membership agreed and date to be set for the meeting</li> <li>Councillor Newton to arrange meeting of WP LIBRARY ACCESS POINT WP</li> </ul>	Yes
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2022		Provision for Young People		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New working party formed to discuss project</li> <li>23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 – Council agreed to discuss this group again in September</li> <li>Currently placed on hold – May 2024</li> <li>Clerk is investigating the Fire and Chill group to see about a group for Sutton.</li> <li>Meeting with group 21/10/24 – Costs to be approx. £9k pa.</li> <li>Clerk to produce Youth Policy and WP party to be established in 2025</li> </ul>	Yes
28 <sup>th</sup> June 2022		War Memorial		<p><b>YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES WP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain specialist advice as to what work is required. I.e., cleaning and/or re-lettering, re-pointing etc.</li> <li>Clerk to take pics of wording etc.</li> <li>Obtain a Church Faculty (Planning permission), as it is in the Churchyard and apply for Conservation Consent.</li> <li>Obtain quotations from specialist companies.</li> <li>Obtain Funding – Application to the War Memorial Trust.</li> </ul>	
		War Memorial			

24 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	LHI 23/24 Application Weight restriction on B1381	CIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk/Deputy Clerk to action in 2024 – Deputy Clerk currently obtaining inspections.</li> </ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit application to CCC</li> <li>• Application submitted</li> <li>• LHI application Dismissed and not reviewed as part on the complex or non-complex application.</li> <li>• Recommendation 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023. To approve that an item is included on the next full council agenda to enable the parish council to discuss the latest status and if necessary to formally raise concerns about the handling of the LHI application to the county council. Added to 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 Agenda</li> <li>• Meeting arranged with Highway Officer, Cllr Dupre and SPC – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023</li> <li>• Clerk to arrange for traffic surveys up to a sum of £1,000. – To go back to November FC meeting, as quotations over £1,000.</li> <li>• Clerk delegated a spend of £2,000 for one set of surveys in 3 locations.</li> <li>• Order placed with Tracsis – survey January 2024</li> <li>• Tracsis have now had approval from CCC for survey to be undertaken. Due January 24.</li> <li>• Clerk to have funding approved for 2<sup>nd</sup> survey before March 24</li> <li>• Tracsis to need locations and duration to give quote for March survey.</li> <li>• Further information required by CCC regarding impact on people</li> <li>• Online survey ready to go out once approved by WP.</li> <li>• Next traffic survey to be carried out on w/c 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024</li> <li>• Note – additional fee of £330 for licences from CCC not included in original quote.</li> <li>• Online survey went live 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</li> <li>• Local PC'S and Police have been contacted.</li> <li>• Clerk currently organising Particulate testing. One</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>

				<p>cost estimate received approx. £3600+vat to comply with CCC testing requirements.</p> <p>Presentation with CCC Clerk and Chair to attend 22/4/24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enviro testing sent to Council. Councillor Jordan to look into other companies.</li> <li>• Decision from CCC will now be September 2024</li> <li>• Unsuccessful – Council to decide how to proceed</li> <li>• Clerk to continue with application in 2025</li> <li>• Letter to Business in area</li> <li>• Ask Lorna/Joshua with help/ideas</li> <li>• Environmental survey</li> <li>• <b>Application Submitted January 2025</b></li> <li>• <b>Traffic and Transport Wp</b></li> </ul>	
25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023		<p><b>Definitive Map Modification Order</b></p> <p>To make a formal Definitive Map Modification Order application for the old railway track bed between Sutton and Haddenham using the evidence supplied to Cllr Inskip</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred to meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 until Cllr Inskip is in attendance to give more of a background to the application.</li> <li>• To be tabled at December 2023 meeting</li> <li>• Mark Inskip to determine how forms to be distributed to people by PC</li> </ul>	
25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023		<p><b>ECDC – Pride of Place, Nature Recovery Plans, Climate and Nature Actions</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved to make an application for this grant for the Orchards, to clear drainage and restore areas to grass</li> <li>• Placed on hold – May 2024</li> <li>• <b>Seek grant to help with ditch clearance in Old Rec/The Orchard.</b></li> </ul>	
22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2023		<p><b>Maintenance to The Glebe:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) External windows – need cementing.</li> <li>2) Window Hall internal – need attention</li> <li>3) Replace oven and extractor</li> </ol>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salmons Bros, contacted for an assessment on the windows.</li> <li>• Clerk has arranged for a quote on replacement oven/extractor. Awaiting quotes 21/2/24</li> <li>• Clerk has spoken to contractor to quote for work</li> </ul>	

				<p>on windows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor has now declined to quote – new contractors contacted. Ray Langley coming out 28/5/24 to look at work.</li> <li>Still chasing contractors to quote for windows.</li> <li>Salmon Bros have quoted £5635+vat for painting of windows. Does not include any remedial work.</li> <li><b>Clerk to keep trying to obtain more quotes</b></li> </ul>	
28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023		Sutton Post Office – Proposed closure/change of service		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SPC to write to One-stop and Post Office to express concerns</li> <li>Post Office to close 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 with pick up and drop service only starting 6<sup>th</sup> July.</li> <li>Investigate with County Councillor having a pop up community ran post office.</li> <li>Contact County Councillor for update</li> </ul>	COMPLETED
March 2024		Fire Station – Proposed Closure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clerk has arranged for a Public Consultation to take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</li> <li>Consultation completed – to be discussed at next Full Council Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 24.</li> <li>Clerk emailed Fire Services with offers to help with recruitment in any way possible. Fire Services response to be discussed at next FC Meeting in April.</li> <li>Clerk has now written directly to Fire Station offering help – no response as of May 2024</li> <li>Fire Services have notified PC that no decision will be made before summer 2025.</li> <li><b>Fire Services have extended decision time into 2026.</b></li> </ul>	

March 2024		<b>Bowls Club Access and footpath around green</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site visit by Clerk 6/3/24 – report sent to Sports and Rec WP for discussion.</li> <li>• Clerk obtaining quotes and will seek funding if possible.</li> <li>• 3 quotes obtained and passed to Cllr Inskip– refer to Sports and Rec WP.</li> <li>• Clerk to have quote for 30mm asphalt top be increased to 50mm</li> <li>• Awaiting Minutes from meeting 30/9/24</li> <li>• Quotes to go to FC</li> <li>• Nov 24 – Clerk to source matched funding for project.</li> <li>• Dec 24 PC approved FC Construction to undertake work</li> <li>• Awaiting update on grant application</li> <li>• Sports and Rec WP</li> </ul>	
August 2024	L	<b>Wildflower Project</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Party to consider project</li> <li>• Sports and Rec WP</li> </ul>	
August 2024	L	<b>Monkey Challenge Climbing Wall</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Party to Consider Project</li> <li>• Clerk to meet with Sutton Rangers to discuss placement of item.</li> <li>• Sutton FC are ok with this. To be put on agenda.</li> <li>• Awaiting grant application</li> <li>• Sports and Rec WP</li> </ul>	
September 2024	M	<b>Speeding Pound Lane</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern raised with poor visibility, children crossing between parked vehicles and speeding along</li> </ul>	

					<p><b>Pound Lane.</b></p> <p><b>Traffic and Transport WP. WP Next meeting 20/2/24</b></p> <p><b>– to report back at March 25 meeting</b></p>	
November 2024	M	<b>Solar Panels at The Glebe</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECDC have reopened funding of up to £30k for install of solar panels under a Net Zero Villages grant fund. Council to decide how to proceed.</li> <li>• EOI for £20-30k grant has been sent 27/11/24.</li> <li>• EOI has been accepted – proceeding to full quote</li> <li>• Cllr Jordan to do costings for full application due end Dec24. Clerk to contact Planning Dept.</li> <li>• Application submitted – awaiting outcome</li> <li>• <b>Unsuccessful in grant application Feb 2025</b></li> </ul>	



### GROWTH ANNOUNCEMENT

The end of January saw a high-profile announcement from the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, about the Government's ambitions for growth.

Much of the announcement focused on Cambridgeshire, and in particular the decision to revive the Oxford-Cambridge corridor or 'OxCam arc' dumped by Boris Johnson three years ago. This plan, touted as 'Europe's Silicon Valley', will now be overseen by science minister Sir Patrick Vallance, whom many will remember appearing on our screens as one of the health professionals advising us daily during the early phase of the Covid pandemic.

Details included confirmation of

- East West Rail, with a new station at Tempsford
- The new Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital
- A University of Cambridge Innovation Hub in central Cambridge
- Development at the Beehive Centre site in Cambridge, and at Waterbeach
- The new Fens and Lincolnshire reservoirs
- Upgrading of the A428 Milton Keynes to Cambridge.

There will be a new delivery body for development around Oxford, to mirror the growth company for Cambridge already established by the Government, headed by Peter Freeman, the former chair of Homes England.

This announcement is a recognition of Cambridgeshire's significance to the UK economy. But it's also an urgent attempt to revive flagging economic growth, and much of what has been announced by way of infrastructure to support intensified development around Cambridge consists of schemes already planned or under way.

It's not clear whether the money is there for the whole route of East West Rail to Cambridge, and residents and businesses need certainty about this so that they can plan for the future.

House-building plans in and around Cambridge are already ambitious, developed through the local planning process. The infrastructure in the Chancellor's announcement is needed to meet these existing plans, not additional ones. For example the proposed Fens Reservoir—still in the early stages of consultation—will not be supplying water until the late 2030s, and is intended to enable the existing housing targets. Additional development will require further investment to ensure communities have access to sufficient

water, health services, and transport. Anglian Water is continuing to object to a number of development proposals on the basis of the insufficient sewage systems.

Commitment to the Cambridge Cancer Hospital is welcome, but our health services, from GP surgeries and access to dentists, to accident and emergency facilities in our hospitals, are already struggling.

And the establishment of further unaccountable delivery bodies to progress the Government's plans does not bode well for genuine public engagement and democratic input. This is particularly concerning as the Chancellor's announcement comes just at the point at which the Government is tearing up the fifty-year-old map of local government [see below] and reorganising local councils which will take several years to set up and start work.

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

An announcement by the Government in December on the future shape of local government is being followed through at breakneck speed.

The Government wants elected Mayors, everywhere. And no two-tier (county and district) councils anywhere. Areas without Mayors are being prioritised to get them, and two-tier council areas are being invited to submit proposals for moving to single-tier 'unitary' councils in the coming months. Those council areas that want to move really quickly on this have been given the opportunity to request cancellation of their upcoming county council elections this May.

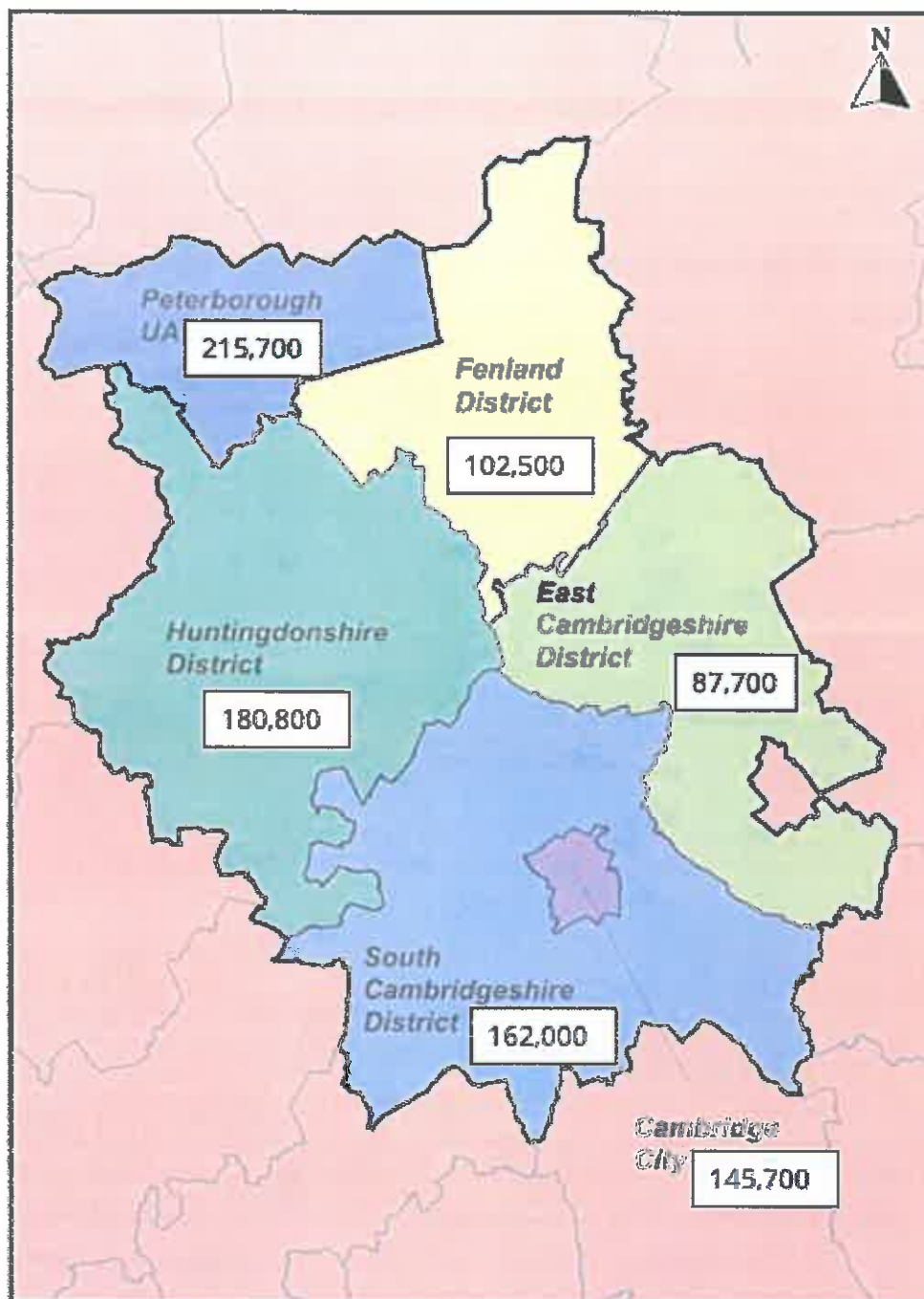
In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the elections for the County Council and the Mayor on Thursday 1 May will go ahead.

### Unitary councils

The Government's specification for new unitary councils continues to emerge. Broadly, new Mayoral authorities should have a population of around 1.5 million (ours has about 900,000 so is a little on the small side). Each Mayoral authority should have at least two unitary councils under it. Each of these councils should have a population of at least 500,000.

This means that unless there's a lot of special pleading, we should expect two unitary councils for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It may be possible to cut up existing district councils and reallocate the pieces, but this would slow up the process and make it more complex, and the Government doesn't seem to be in that sort of mood.

The populations of the local authorities in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority area from the most recent (2021) census are as follows.



The Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, the smallest council in our Combined Authority area, has written to the leaders and chief executives of the other councils in our area, saying that East Cambs “will not be resorting to redrawing maps and producing our own proposals”. However, she has set out criteria on which she is prepared to hold discussions with neighbouring councils, including her administration’s current policies on council tax freezes, controversial approach to Community Land Trusts (CLTs), and support for its trading companies.

She also says she wants to hear “proposals which respect our current boundaries and seek an equitable partnership between the constituent parts of any new Council”. This all does rather seem to miss the point that this process is about creating a new council (not a new partnership of councils—that is what the Combined Authority is), which will be substantially bigger than East Cambs.

Furthermore, councils do change political colour from time to time, and the policies of the current administration of the smallest council in Cambridgeshire cannot be set in stone or bind its much larger successor for ever.

The county council's Insight team is producing data to help council officers advise councillors and to help councillors come to conclusions about sensible, workable proposals. While I wait to see the data, my initial view is that residents across East Cambridgeshire tend to look to Cambridge rather than Peterborough—even more so for those in places like Cheveley, Stetchworth, Bottisham and Burwell. We use hospital facilities at Addenbrookes, FE and sixth form facilities at Hills Road, Long Road, and Cambridge Regional College. We commute to jobs at the Science Park, Biomedical Campus and with other employers. Even from Littleport, at the northernmost end of the district, there are direct trains to Cambridge, and the A10 down to the Milton interchange. We don't all do all those things, but a large enough proportion of us do to mean that these should be really important criteria.

And of course, ultimately, drawing lines on maps will be exactly what the Government's exercise is all about. If councils don't agree collectively what we think is the best solution, the Government will just pick one of its own choosing. Its policies and priorities will be up to local residents in the elections that follow.

### More powers for Mayors

At the same time as all this, the Government also wants elected Mayors to have more powers.

- All areas will have to produce a Spatial Development Strategy, to be adopted with support from a majority of constituents.
  - Mayors will be given new development management powers 'similar to those those exercised by the Mayor of London'—including the ability to call in planning applications.
  - Mayors will be able to charge developers a 'Mayoral Levy' to 'ensure that new developments come with the necessary associated infrastructure'. Such a levy was used to help fund London's Elizabeth Line in 2012.
  - Homes England will have a stronger partnership with established Mayoral Strategic Authorities and increased accountability to mayors to help them deliver on their plans. As part of this, the government says it will move Homes England to a more 'regionalised model' over time, 'so that the agency is even more responsive to the economic plan of an area'.
  - Mayors will be given 'the funding they need to deliver on their housing ambitions, with control of grant funding for regeneration and housing delivery'.
  - Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities will be given the power to set out the strategic direction of any future affordable housing programme.
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## STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

### Council budget

Cambridgeshire County Council Strategy Resources & Performance Committee met on Tuesday 28 January and considered its budget proposals to the Full Council, which will meet on Tuesday 11 February.

Plans for the coming year include an investment of more than £56M in highways maintenance to tackle the significant backlog of repairs. This includes £14.5M for day-to-day management of the highway and an additional £20M in planned maintenance including roads, pavements, drainage, bridges, safety barriers, traffic signals, public rights of way, and cycleways.

The proposals include £3M to cover inflation for local care providers and an extra £8M for the five per cent increase in the Real Living Wage. The draft budget also invests an additional £9M for children who become 'looked after' by the care system, and £4.7M to support home to school transport services.

In addition, an estimated £6M of Household Support Fund will support those most in need, alongside further improvements in libraries through £1.3M already committed to the Libraries Plus programme.

Nationally, the financial picture for councils is not good. Four in five county councils are saying that they will be worse off than before the Government's autumn budget and financial settlement. 93 per cent of county and unitary councils will have to raise council tax by the maximum permitted, which is 4.99 per cent in all but exceptional circumstances.

County councils face huge challenges meeting the need for adult social care, provision for special educational needs, and school transport. 93 per cent of Cambridgeshire County Council's spending is on things it must do by law, and 86 per cent of the council's income comes from council tax and business rates. It really doesn't leave much room for manoeuvre.

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## ADULTS & HEALTH

### Frequent users of A&E

A new specialist team is helping to reduce avoidable visits to Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Known as the High Impact Use team (HIU), the service is a partnership between NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and the County Council (who host the service) on behalf of the Integrated Care System (ICS). This service helps those who often attend A&E for reasons that extend beyond medical interventions and for needs which would be better met by other professionals.



Since its launch in October 2024, the team found that many of the frequent visitors to A&E at local hospitals were experiencing issues such as loneliness, financial problems, and poor physical and mental health, rather than medical emergencies requiring urgent hospital care.

The HIU team works alongside partners to build a trusted relationship with each person identified as requiring non-clinical support through their frequent attendances at A&E, and help meet their needs. This can include arranging and attending appointments with the patient, enrolling them in community groups or charity services, and assisting them to access other support such as counselling services, housing advice and employment guidance.

The service is provided to people aged eighteen or over who are registered with a GP in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough or Royston.

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## **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

Sutton C of E Primary school is opening a specialist autism resource centre at Easter. There are several such facilities at secondary schools in Cambridgeshire, but just one other such facility in a primary school in the county. The new ten-place Enhanced Resource Base was approved last May (2024).

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## **COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)**

### **Little Downham library**

The Book Café at the Village Hall in Little Downham has had to scale back operations, restricting opening to Wednesday afternoons only. Denice Maxey and a team of volunteers are coordinating these, supported by Assistant Parish Clerk Kendle Hanslip, but they are still looking for a volunteer manager. Meanwhile I've liaised with the County Council's libraries manager to ensure their support for retaining this Community Managed Library in the village.

### **Falls prevention**

Cold homes can affect mobility and put older people at greater risk of falling. It's important to be extra careful to avoid falls during winter months. There's an online interactive risk checking tool to help identify your risks, or those of older family, friends, or neighbours.

**[www.steadyonyourfeet.org/cambridgeshire](http://www.steadyonyourfeet.org/cambridgeshire)**

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## **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT**

### **Contract for collection of recyclable waste**

There has been much discussion recently of a new contract for disposal of recyclable waste which involves transport for processing in Northern Ireland.

This contract is for the contents of our blue bins. Recyclable materials dropped off at Household Recycling Centres are dealt with under different contracts.

The contract for blue bin waste is let by RECAP, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Waste Partnership ([www.recap.co.uk](http://www.recap.co.uk)). The County Council's procurement team assisted RECAP with the procurement process because the council hosts the RECAP Manager role, but the contract award decision was made by the waste collection authorities (the district councils). The waste collection authorities have managed this contract for the last ten years.

The current contractor, Thalia at Waterbeach, did not submit a compliant bid, so was disqualified. The contract was awarded to two successful contractors:

- Biffa (London) for material from East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Fenland
- RE-GEN (Northern Ireland) for material from Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Bids were awarded on quality as well as on price, and transport considerations were part of the criteria.

It has been suggested that the new contract with RE-GEN will mean thousands of miles of additional HGV journeys, compared to the current contract. However, RE-GEN already has contracts with sixteen other authorities and distributes sorted recycling back to the UK before making the return journey to Northern Ireland. The company intends to build a new processing facility in the Midlands during the lifetime of this contract.

RE-GEN can recover up to 99 per cent of material through their plant, compared to 80 per cent under the current contract. This will mean capturing an estimated 400 tonnes more material a month. This is not only important in its own right environmentally, but also in light of the forthcoming national 'extended producer responsibility' scheme. Under this scheme the original producers of waste are required to fund the lifetime costs of its recycling and disposal—and councils will be required to demonstrate as efficient and effective recovery of packaging as possible.

In short, goods and packaging are manufactured around the UK, and indeed the world. Recycling and recovery of these materials is also carried out nationwide and worldwide.

### **Cradge bank at Sutton Gault**

The erosion of the Cradge bank at Sutton Gault was reported to the Environment Agency in September by a local resident. When he posted further evidence in early December, I took this up with the Environment Agency, and

was promised action as soon as the water levels had subsided soon enough to permit access for people, plant, and materials.

(I have since been told that because a breach would not increase flood risk to people or property, this was not treated as a high priority; that earlier access was prohibited by the water levels in the flood plain, which had fallen but then rose again; and that operational staff were busy managing issues associated with flooding across the area.)

Just before Christmas, vehicles arrived on site, and the increasing gaps in the bank were plugged with sandbags as a temporary measure. The Environment Agency's next step is to carry out an investigation to determine options for a more permanent repair—they hope to have the funding for the investigation this year. A preferred option will then need to be costed, then bid for.

All of this is taking place in the context of funding cuts, under-staffing and low morale at the Environment Agency across the country. Funding for the regulator is nearly a third lower in real terms than it was in 2010.

The Environment Agency incident hotline number is 0800 80 70 60, or email **[enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)**. Do specifically request to be kept informed if you make a report; if you don't, the Environment Agency will just assume you are providing some local intelligence, and not contact you back.

### **New strategies to come to committee in March**

Two new environmental strategies are to be presented to the County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee in March—a Tree & Woodland Strategy for management of trees and hedgerows on the council's own land (including road verges), and a Biodiversity Strategy.

### **Waste water treatment decision delay**

A decision by Government on the move of the waste water treatment plant from North East Cambridge to Honey Hill has been delayed until April.

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## **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

### **A10 BP roundabout crossing consultation**

A public consultation on a proposed new crossing of the A10 BP roundabout is now open, closing at 11:59PM on Wednesday 5 March 2025.

The proposals include two bridge options and one signal crossing option, each with different design features, benefits and costs. As an active travel route, the new crossing would be designed for walking, cycling and travelling by wheelchair or mobility aids.



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is funding the project and Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for delivering the scheme. To find out more, residents are invited to attend a drop-in event or webinar:

- Tuesday 4 February, 7:00-8:15PM (online webinar)
- Tuesday 11 February, 3:00-7:00PM, Witchford Village College (drop-in)
- Wednesday 26 February, 1:00-2:15PM (online webinar)
- Thursday 27 February, 10:30AM-2:30PM Ely Library (drop-in)

Throughout the consultation, residents can also visit an unstaffed exhibition at Ely Library during library opening hours to find out more about the proposals. Library staff will not be able to answer questions but there will be information banners and printed copies of the consultation brochure for residents to read.

The consultation findings will help inform a future decision to be made by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the preferred option to be taken forward.

For further information, including to complete the survey and register for a webinar, visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ely-witchford-crossing](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ely-witchford-crossing)

### Street light LED replacements

The programme to replace fluorescent street lights with more environmentally friendly LED ones has started, with replacements in the Sutton division happening in Little Downham (but not Pymoor, yet) and Mepal.

A number of complaints have been received, locally and across the county, which are being investigated. The new fittings intentionally shine the light more directly down, and this is an issue in areas where a lot of street lights were removed when management of the lighting was contracted to Balfour Beatty, leaving pools of darkness between street lights. Councillors are also asking officers to review some of the lights against the agreed specification.

### Chain Causeway Sutton

This got off to a slightly rocky start, with several days of unpredictable on-off road closures until the road was fully shut on Thursday 9 January, and some rather suboptimal signage for the first day or two. But work is now progressing well and according to programme, despite several wet and windy days.

### A142 Witcham Toll to Lancaster Way

Works are expected on the A142 to retexture the carriageway at various points between Witcham Toll and Lancaster Way. These are currently scheduled to take place between 11 and 17 February, and to involve occasional closures of the A142 between 8:00PM and 6:00AM. See **one.network** for information on locations and dates of works.

### Footpath 3 Gravel End to Downham Hythe

The long-awaited work to reinstate this footpath is now planned to start on 10 March, completing on 13 May. I am continuing to press council officers on this timetable as I know how valued this pedestrian link between the two villages is.

### Speed sign on The America

Cllr Mark Inskip and I managed to intercept county council officers before they removed one of the speed signs on The America in Sutton, which they wrongly claimed was no longer working.

### Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The new Tiger On Demand bus service is now available in East Cambridgeshire. Tiger On Demand is a flexible transport service for residents in rural and under-served areas. The service allows passengers to book journeys between designated virtual stops, offering a reliable and convenient alternative to traditional fixed-route bus services. Residents can book their journeys

- On the Tiger On Demand app
- By calling the dedicated booking line 01480 595 440
- Via the website at [www.tigerondemand.co.uk](http://www.tigerondemand.co.uk)

Operating times are Monday to Saturday, 6:30AM to 7:00PM. Fares are £2 per journey for adults, £1 for children aged 5 to 16 or Tiger pass holders, free for under-5s or concessionary and disability bus pass holders. Pay by debit or credit card when booking over the phone, or via the app. Unfortunately drivers are not able to accept cash or card payments.

For full details please visit: <https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand/>

The Transport & Infrastructure Committee unanimously recommended to the Mayor that he agree to introduce franchising of bus services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This would put control of routes, fares and timetables into democratic hands, and enable profit-making routes to subsidise socially needed but less used ones.

### MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

#### Surgery: new venue!

Cllr Mark Inskip and I are moving our monthly councillor surgery to Joy Bistro at 65 High Street Sutton—thank you to the Bistro for being so welcoming! Dates and times remain the same, 6:30-7:30PM on the first Monday of each month unless otherwise advised. Forthcoming dates are Monday 3 February and Monday 3 March.

### Or catch me at ...

- Wednesday 12 February, 10:30-11:30, Nellie's Scott Court Sutton
- Wednesday 12 February, 12:00-12:45, Soup lunch Coveney Village Hall
- Tuesday 18 February, 10:00-11:00, Timebank coffee morning The Glebe Sutton
- Friday 28 February, 10:00-11:00, Nellie's Scott Court Sutton

The above may change at short notice subject to late changes to my diary.

I can also be contacted

- by email at [lorna@lornadupre.org.uk](mailto:lorna@lornadupre.org.uk)
- on Facebook
- by phone on 07930 337596

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**Cllr Lorna Dupré**

County Councillor for the Sutton division

# Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

## MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

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### BUDGET

The District Council will set its budget on Tuesday 25 February. The Leader of the Conservative Group has already announced a council tax freeze for a further year, but warned that savings will need to be made in future years. Our Group will be making an alternative budget proposal.

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### PLANNING

#### 22/00626/FUL 121-123 High Street Sutton

The Council has asked for an extension of time to Friday 14 February to determine the application for nine dwellings, garages and associated works at 121-123 High Street Sutton.

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### WASTE

#### Mooncup offer to reduce impact on landfill

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Recycling Partnership RECAP, of which East Cambridgeshire is a part, is offering Mooncup reusable menstrual cups for £5 instead of the usual £23.50. 200,000 tonnes of disposable menstrual products end up in UK landfill sites each year, so this has the capacity to make a significant contribution to waste reduction.

#### Don't leave your fridge out in the cold

Residents thinking of buying a new fridge or freezer are being asked to think twice about the disposal of their current models. Last year East Cambridgeshire District Council was called to 35 fly-tips which included a fridge or freezer. Shockingly, just one fridge containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that has not been disposed of properly causes the same greenhouse gas emissions as a small household's annual electricity requirement or a car's annual mileage. Solar panels on the roof of a detached house would have to generate electricity for a year to compensate for the environmental damage caused.

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### CREMATORIUM

The Conservative Group's crematorium project is currently due to be considered by Full Council on 22 May 2025—if the final tender costs are higher than currently budgeted then further approval is required by full Council. The Internal Auditor reported to the council's Audit Committee on Monday 3 February that "the latest cost plan indicates a potential significant increase in costs over the

approved budget, which is clearly identified as a key risk. A decision has been made to progress to tender stage so that actual costs can be determined with certainty and all options reported to Council for decision at that stage."

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## **COMMUNITY POLICING MEETINGS**

A reminder of the next Community Policing Team meeting for East Cambridgeshire at 7:00PM on Wednesday 9 April. Book by email (subject 'EAST CAMBS') to [communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk](mailto:communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk)

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## **COUNCIL MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH**

### **February**

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

### **March**

- Planning Committee, Wednesday 5 March
  - Licensing Committee, Wednesday 12 March
  - Audit Committee. Tuesday 18 March
  - Operational Services, Monday 24 March
  - Finance & Assets, Thursday 27 March
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## **MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS**

We will be at Joy Bistro, 65 High Street, Sutton on Monday 3 March and Monday 7 April at 6:30-7:30PM.

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

### **Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip**

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



# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,  
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555  
[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

Mr Philip Harty  
Clerk to Sutton Parish Council  
The Glebe  
4 High Street  
Sutton  
Ely  
Cambs  
CB6 2RB

*This matter is being dealt with by:*

Charlotte Sage

Telephone: 01353 665555  
E-mail: [plservices@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:plservices@eastcambs.gov.uk)  
My Ref: 22/00626/FUL  
Your ref

18th February 2025

Dear Clerk

**Proposal:** Erection of 9 No.dwellings and associated works, following the demolition of the existing dwellings (121 and 123 High Street)  
**Location:** 121-123 High Street Sutton Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2NR  
**Reference:** 22/00626/FUL

I am writing to inform you that the above proposal has been considered and it was resolved to approve the application.

In considering this application your comments were taken into consideration. You are able to view the officer/committee report using public access <http://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RC4XL9GGGX00>.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact the case officer Charlotte Sage on 01353 665555.

Yours faithfully

**Charlotte Sage**  
Planning Officer



# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,  
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555  
[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

Mr Philip Harty  
Clerk to Sutton Parish Council  
The Glebe  
4 High Street  
Sutton  
Ely  
Cambs  
CB6 2RB

*This matter is being dealt with by:*

Charlotte Sage

Telephone: 01353 665555  
E-mail: [plservices@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:plservices@eastcambs.gov.uk)  
My Ref: 25/00114/FUL  
Your ref

12th February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**Proposal:** Proposed lake and associated works  
**Location:** Land South East Of 107 The Row Sutton Cambridgeshire  
**Reference:** 25/00114/FUL

An application been received by this Authority for the development described above.

Please complete and return the attached sheet with any comments and/or observations your Council may have by 5th March 2025. You can view the application and supporting information on our Public Access page

<http://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SQYOU5GGKOH00>). Any such comments will, under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, be available to the general public.

**If we do not receive a response from you by 5th March 2025, it will be assumed that your Council does not wish to make any comments on this application unless you advise us otherwise.**

If you would like to discuss this application further, please contact Charlotte Sage on 01353 665555.

Yours faithfully

**Charlotte Sage**  
Planning Officer



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**  
*Working together to improve community safety*

Sutton Parish Council  
The Glebe  
4 High Street  
Sutton  
Ely  
CB6 2RB

VIA EMAIL

14 February 2025

Dear Councillors,

I am writing with an update on the situation regarding the future of Sutton Fire Station.

As you will be aware, last year we announced that we were looking at a proposal to reallocate the resources from three On Call fire stations and crew two full time fire engines at weekends at Ely and St Neots. Sutton was one of the three stations.

Whilst we have been carrying out local engagement, we secured funding to trial the additional crews at weekends using Firefighters at all On Call fire stations and we are now more than six months into this.

During this time, we have also had a new Chief Fire Officer and changes to our Service Leadership Team.

We have recently met as a Service Leadership Team and discussed our collective vision for the Service, particularly from an operational response perspective. This has included the reallocation of resources at Sutton Fire Station and an update on the trial we have been running to boost available fire engines at weekends.

We have so far seen the benefit of having the additional resources at weekends on our availability, but we would like to run the trial for longer to evaluate it properly,



[www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk)

Fire Service Headquarters | Hinchingsbrooke Cottage | Brampton Road | Huntingdon | PE29 2NA | T: 01480 444 500



particularly how we crew the additional appliances and if this is sustainable moving forward.

We have also had meetings with the Mayor's Office during this time looking at growth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over the next few years. This is going to be significant and we need to ensure our Fire and Rescue Service is fit for the future, understanding the impact more houses and businesses will have on our demand.

We have therefore decided that it would be sensible to postpone any decision on the future of Sutton Fire Station until we have done the wider piece of work, looking at our future response service across the whole of the county and how we will resource this. The availability of all of our On Call stations will feed into this work.

This decision to postpone any decision beyond June of this year does not mean the future of Sutton Fire Station is secure. We are still struggling with the availability of some of our On Call fire engines, including Sutton, and we do not believe some are viable or offer the best value for money for the public. However, we want to ensure we have a robust plan in place that will provide a better service across the county before we start to reallocate existing resources.

We will continue to keep you updated into next year. It does mean that the public engagement event at the fire station that we said we would run around now will no longer take place until we have progressed the project further.

We are still looking at how we can provide you with monthly information about Sutton Fire Station and how often it is available and used etc. and we will be in touch again in the coming weeks once this process has been set up.

Thank you for your continued interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



**STUART SMITH**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**