

# Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

## MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2025

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### FULL COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of East Cambridgeshire District Council took place on Thursday 22 May.

Despite the Conservative group having only 14 of the council's 28 seats, the outgoing Chair used his casting vote to elect the incoming Chair, who used her casting vote to elect the incoming Vice Chair, Conservative chair and vice chairs of all committees, and to spend £13M on the Conservative group's crematorium at Mepal. All in all the incoming Chair used her casting vote around twenty times during the meeting, always in the interests of the Conservative group.

A motion was passed unanimously expressing concern at Government plans to reduce the role of councillors in determining planning applications.

The council also noted urgent action by the Chief Executive to correct Wentworth Parish Council's parish precept, agreed at £10,500 but incorrectly stated at £20,500 and incorporated at that value in the district council's Council Tax resolution. The amendment enables revised Council Tax bills to be issued to residents in Wentworth.

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### CREMATORIUM

As predicted, the District Council's Annual Meeting agreed, using the Chair's casting vote to resolve a 14:14 deadlock, to press ahead with the Conservative group's plan for a crematorium at Mepal.

We presented large amounts of evidence to show this plan is fundamentally flawed. These included figures showing that existing nearby crematoria were operating under capacity, and that new crematoria simply took business from their neighbours—for example, cremations at Cambridge had reduced by 500 a year over three years following the opening of the new crematorium at Huntingdon.

Charlotte Cane MP has taken up with ministers whether it is appropriate to divert developer contributions, meant to enhance local amenities, to invest in commercial undertakings. And we have launched a petition against this grotesque waste of public money, which is available for signature at

[change.org/stop-mepal-crematorium](https://change.org/stop-mepal-crematorium)

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## **EAST CAMBS COMMUNITY FUND OPEN FOR BIDS**

Community groups are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to £1,000, offered by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Groups can spend the money on new or existing projects designed to improve the quality of life for residents.

Successful applicants in the last round of grants included

- Ely Folk Festival to enhance accessible facilities for visitors to the 2024 festival
- Stretham Youth Centre for their Activ8 social club which offers life skills development and getting active through sport and recreation for young adults with additional needs
- Blue Smile in Soham who run arts-based therapy for children, helping them to overcome mental health challenges.

The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund will be open to applications until 4 July 2025.

<https://eastcambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-wellbeing/grants-and-community-projects/community-fund>

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## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

The remaining options for new 'unitary' councils being considered by local authority leaders in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been reduced to just three. All of the remaining options under consideration split Cambridgeshire and Peterborough into just two councils, but along different lines.

The councils are planning some public consultation though at the time of writing this is still being finalised. The deadline for final submissions to be with Government is still November.

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## **SOLAR PANELS AT THE HIVE**

228 solar panels have been installed at The Hive Leisure Centre in Ely using £69,510 from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund.

The solar panels are expected to produce 91,050 KWh of renewable electricity for the centre with estimated savings of £18,000 a year. A display screen in the reception area will show the amount of electricity being generated.

The company who installed the panels, SGS Energy Ltd, will be at The Hive during its open weekend on 19 and 20 July to raise awareness and provide information about clean energy to residents and visitors.

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## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

- Wednesday 4 June: Planning Committee
  - Wednesday 18 June: Licensing Committee
  - Monday 23 June: Operational Services Committee
  - Thursday 26 June: Finance & Assets Committee
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## **MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS**

We will be at Joy Bistro, 65 High Street, Sutton on Monday 7 July and Monday 4 August 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)