



Parish Clerk

Mr Philip Harty
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Planning applications: All applications can be viewed at 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 24th February 2026 at 7.30pm in The Glebe, 4 High Street, Sutton.

Present: Cllr B Browne Cllr Barnard Cllr Goodjohn
Cllr L Kirby Cllr S Partington Cllr Newton

Clerk: Mr P Harty

Public: 2

MINUTES

MEMBERS: 15

QUORUM: 5

Vacancies: 2

Meeting Opened at 7.30pm

184/26 To receive and note apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Inskip, Owen, Brown, Cassidy, Butler and Oakland.

185/26 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

186/26 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.**

None

187/26 To approve the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27th January 2026 (See Info Pack)

Resolved – It was proposed by Cllr Goodjohn and seconded by Cllr Kirby that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th January 2026 were a true reflection of the meeting. All Cllrs presented voted in favour.

188/26 To receive and note the Project Chart and Action Plan (See Info Pack)

Noted by Council.

189/26 To receive reports in relation to Sutton from: (See Info Pack)

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

Reports noted by Council.

190/26 Finance

1. To approve payments.

Online Payments

February 2026	Salaries & expenses	£8551.20
February 2026	Cambs Pension Fund	£855.65
Veolia Ltd	Easi-bins	£98
The Copier Warehouse	Photocopying	£88.36
Centra Data	Computer Support	£385.32
ESPO	Office Supplies	£41.82
Amazon	Office Supplies	£15.98
Twin Motor Company	Van Battery	£109.30
Fenland Spirit Services	Lawnmower Service	£171.50
FC Construction	Bowls Footpath	£18984
SLCC	Clerk – Subscription	£329.25
SLCC	Training	£35
Bison	New Bridge	£5629.61

Direct Debits

ECDC	Non-domestic rates	£0
Lloyds	Multipay	£200.44
O2	Mobile Phones	£102
DRAX	Pavilion Electric	£238.93
DRAX	Glebe Electric	£304.91
DRAX UMS	Street Lights	£33.85
British Gas	Glebe Gas	£777.38
British Gas	Pavilion Gas	£545.40
B & CE	Peoples Pension	£196.44
HMRC	Tax & NIC	£2109.07

Resolved – It was proposed by Cllr Browne and seconded by Cllr Barnard to approve all payments for February 2026. All Cllrs present voted in favour.
Clerk to arrange payments.

191/26 Planning (See Info Pack)

1. Planning approvals/Refusals – NONE
2. Appeals/Variations – NONE
3. Planning Applications – NONE
4. Tree Consents –

a. 26/00152/TRE 9 Eastwood Close Sutton Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2RH

T1 Weeping Willow - Pruning of lower hanging branches only, by approximately 1 metre, to maintain a 2-3m clearance over the footpath and for general tree upkeep. With ongoing consent to maintain the clearance as and when required for a period of 5 years from the determination date.

Noted by Council

b. 26/00108/TRE 72 High Street Sutton Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2NL

Section 1 is between the greenhouse and the vegetable garden and is to be reduced by approx. 3m in height.

Section 2 is on the boundary with 18 Saffron Piece, and this is to be reduced by approx. 1m.

Section 3 is alongside a privet hedge set in lawn and this is to be reduced by approx. 1M. – APPROVED

Noted by Council

c.26/00040/TRE 41 High Street Sutton Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2RA

T1 Pine - Fell. Tree is on rear boundary overhanging adjacent gardens – APPROVED

Noted by Council.

192/26 Presentation by Kirby & Cox re Youth Provision.

Kirby & Cox presented how the Youth Club would run and the ideas they had going forward. Clerk is to work with them to finalise details – such as day and time, produce posters and advertising for club.

193/26 Consider and Approve Policies

a. Tree Monitoring Policy

Resolved – It was proposed by Cllr Goodjohn and seconded by Cllr Browne to approve the Tree Monitoring Policy. All Cllrs present voted in favour.

b. Lone Working Policy

Resolved – It was proposed by Cllr Newton and seconded by Cllr Goodjohn to approve the Tree Monitoring Policy. All Cllrs present voted in favour.

194/26 Anti-Social Behaviour Report

Discuss and Comment

Clerk reported to Council on updates of vandalism and policing.

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Browne and seconded by Cllr Barnard to allow a dispensation to the Clerk to spend up to £3000 on a suitable CCTV system without the need to bring back to Council. All Cllrs present voted in favour.

Clerk to continue to source 2 more quotes before deciding.

195/26 Cemetery Fencing (See Info Pack)

After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should seek quotes for a more permanent fence/hedging at the Cemetery.

Clerk to obtain quotes and bring back to Council.

196/26 To Note Letter from Sutton Pepperpot (See Info Pack)

Noted by Council who are happy to support The Pepperpot.

197/26 Matters as Agenda Items for Future Consideration

None

No Decision can be Made Under This Item¹

198/26 Date of Next Full Council Meeting(s)

24th March 2026 - Full Council

21st April 2026 – Full Council

5th May 2026 – Annual Meeting of Electorate

19th May 2026 – Annual Parish Council Meeting and Full Council

23rd June 2026 – Full Council

28th July 2026 - Full Council

25th August 2026 - Full Council

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend the meeting.

¹ Local Government Act 1972, s12 10(2) (b)

Agenda Item: 203/26



PROJECT AND ACTION PLAN

Full Council – 24th March 2026 Agenda Item



March 2026

SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Glebe, 4 High Street, Sutton, Ely, Cambs

2026 – Sutton Parish Council Project and Action chart

As at: 17th March 2026

Date	Priority Level	Detail	Budget	Progress	Completed
	M	Picnic Benches for open spaces and recreation ground	CIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 purchased, if they are going to be on hard standing or grass 4/8 Clerk to get 3 quotes once WP decide Currently on Hold WP to investigate overlay of concrete pad and addition of 2 concrete picnic benches and a table tennis table. SPORTS & RECREATION WP 	
H		Cycle Parking (CCC) at facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations agreed. The Glebe car park, The Pavilion and The Brooklands Centre. 	CCC funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Glebe installation 4th May 2022 Pavilion and Brooklands installation Awaiting bollards and mesh flooring (No date given) Chased 16/06 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 	Yes Yes

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the installation taking into account the resin car park. 02.08.22, No mention of Mesh at Pavilion No updates from CCC regarding Pavilion or Glebe, office to chase 18.10.22 Pavilion and RBL bike stands have had the Geogrid installed and area made neat. To chase CCC about the Glebe stands and rectifying the surrounds to the surfacing. Clerk to look into Oct/Nov 2024 Bike Stands to be moved 	Yes
H	<p>LHI Scheme – 20mph speed reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application to be made for speed reductions on The Row, Painters Lane, West Lodge Lane and Mepal Road. Scheme to also include Ely Rd, Brooklands, High Street. 	CIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application form submitted 25th April 2022 CCC Has allocated an Engineer to work with SPC. CCC Engineer emailed to give info on CCC 20mph reduction scheme. SPC to consider if it wishes to continue with application. SPC agreed to hold the application until its receipt of CCC 20mph policy. It will be discussed again at this point. (24.5.22) Been advised by Highways officer at CCC that further information on the application process, specific requirements and timelines will be provided in due course after their meeting in December 2022 Email sent to CCC Highways for an update on the scheme. Application forms have been received, and data being collected to make the application. Consultations letters sent to residents in the area. Application form completed. Pending decision 20mph Scheme fully funded reopens 15/2/24 https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/20mph-funding – Clerk has reapplied to the scheme. 	Yes Yes Yes	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to produce survey re 20mph from A142 Roundabout through to the America. This part to be PFHI. • Funding for the scheme has now been allocated and Sutton was unsuccessful. Council to decide if we should reapply next year. • Clerk to reapply – produce residents survey to support application – January 2025 • Survey active now – once complete to go to Working Party. Survey now closed. • Traffic and Transport Working Party WP Next meeting 20/2/24 – to report back at March 25 meeting • Full Council to decide on what areas to apply for in 20mph Scheme at March 25 Meeting • Clerk has now applied for Mepal Road, The Row, Painters Lane and West Lodge Lane • Awaiting outcome of application • Approved by CCC – Due date Summer 2026 	
10 th May 2022		Library Access Point		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New working party formed to discuss project • 23rd May 2023 – Working party membership agreed and date to be set for the meeting • Councillor Kirby to arrange meeting of WP • WP looking at costs and configuration of room. Meeting with school 10th Feb 26 • LIBRARY ACCESS POINT WP 	Yes
10 th May 2022		Provision for Young People		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New working party formed to discuss project • 23rd May 2023 – Council agreed to discuss this group again in September • Currently placed on hold – May 2024 • Clerk is investigating the Fire and Chill group to see about a group for Sutton. • Meeting with group 21/10/24 – Costs to be approx. 	Yes

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £9k pa. • Clerk to produce Youth Policy and W/P party to be established in 2025 • Clerk getting quote to provide activities from April 2025 • 3 quotes to go to Meeting Jan 2026 • Kirby & Cox to give presentation at Feb 2026 Meeting • Club scheduled to start on 14th April 2026 at 5.30pm <p>YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES WP</p>	
28 th June 2022	War Memorial	War Memorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain specialist advice as to what work is required. I.e., cleaning and/or re-lettering, re-pointing etc. • Clerk to take pics of wording etc. • Obtain a Church Faculty (Planning permission), as it is in the Churchyard and apply for Conservation Consent. • Obtain quotations from specialist companies. • Obtain Funding – Application to the War Memorial Trust. • Clerk/Deputy Clerk to action in 2024 – Deputy Clerk currently obtaining inspections. • 3 Quotes received. Will added to Agenda for July 2025 • Quote Of £2128 from Brown & Ralph agreed. Clerk to look at a grant and approach PPC • Grant applied for – WMT will grant 50% of quoted works if successful. • PCC have informed us we need a Faculty. Applied for. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22/4/24 • Enviro testing sent to Council. Councillor Jordan to look into other companies. • Decision from CCC will now be September 2024 • Unsuccessful – Council to decide how to proceed • Clerk to continue with application in 2025 • Letter to Business in area • Ask Lorra/Joshua with help/ideas • Environmental survey • Application Submitted January 2025 • CCC have advised we look at doing this in 3 stages. • Clerk to explore further on 20th June at LHI Panel. • T&T WP to discuss on 29/7/25 • Recommendations from WP to go to FC in Aug 2025 • Clerk has obtained Quotes for environmental monitoring – to go to FC • Enviro monitoring being arranged for Nov/Dec 25 • Advisory Signage now with CCC Design Team. Sate for Install Summer 2026 • PC to look at types of traffic calming and locations. To go back to CCC to approve. Once approved public consultation to take place prior to LHI bid. • PC/Clerk to produce covenants for local businesses. Results of ANPR and Vibration back back – to go to W/P • Traffic and Transport W/P 	
25 th July 2023	<p>Definitive Map Modification Order</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"> • Deferred to meeting on the 22nd August 2023 until Cllr Inskip is in attendance to give more of a background to the application. • To be tabled at December 2023 meeting • Mark Inskip to determine how forms to be distributed to people by PC 	
25 th July 2023	<p>ECDC – Pride of Place, Nature Recovery Plans, Climate and Nature Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved to make an application for this grant for the Orchards, to clear drainage and restore areas to grass 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placed on hold – May 2024 Seek grant to help with ditch clearance in Old Rec/The Orchard. Still awaiting prices from Contractors One quote obtained – to go to FC Quote of £4995 approved – work due Dec 2025 Work now complete. Conservation Group to do some tidy up work. 	
22 nd August 2023	<p>Maintenance to The Glebe: 1) External windows – need cementing. 2) Window Hall internal – need attention</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salmons Bros, contacted for an assessment on the windows. Clerk has arranged for a quote on replacement oven/extractor. Awaiting quotes 21/2/24 Clerk has spoken to contractor to quote for work on windows. Contractor has now declined to quote – new contractors contacted. Ray Langley coming out 28/5/24 to look at work. Still chasing contractors to quote for windows. Salmon Bros have quoted £5635+vat for painting of windows. Does not include any remedial work. Clerk to keep trying to obtain more quotes 	
March 2024	<p>Bowls Club Access and footpath around green</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit by Clerk 6/3/24 – report sent to Sports and Rec WP for discussion. Clerk obtaining quotes and will seek funding if possible. 3 quotes obtained and passed to Cliff Inskip– refer 	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to Sports and Rec WP. • Clerk to have quote for 30mm asphalt top be increased to 50mm • Awaiting Minutes from meeting 30/9/24 • Quotes to go to FC • Nov 24 – Clerk to source matched funding for project. • Dec 24 PC approved FC Construction to undertake work • Awaiting update on grant application • Grant application to ECDC was unsuccessful. Clerk to carry on seeking funding. • Clerk has applied to Sport England for Grant. • Sports England have awarded a grant of £6k. Currently awaiting dates from contractor. • More work has been identified – contractor to requote – to go to FC • Update quote of £15840 approved – arranging date with contractor • Work has now started 16th Jan 2026 • COMPLETED 2/3/26 • Sports and Rec WP 	
August 2024	L	Wildflower Project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Party to consider project • Clerk to provide more info. • Sports and Rec WP 	

Dec 2025		PFHI Bid to place double yellows at junctions of Victoria Place/High St, Brookside/The Brook, York Rd/High St, West Lodge/High St		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To go to Full Council Nov 2025 to approve. • Application is now in with CCC 	Ongoing
Dec 2025		Footbridge at Orchard/Paddock		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge now closed due to condition. • Clerk obtaining quotes to replace. • Quotes to be presented to Full Council January 2026 • Bridge purchased – awaiting dryer weather for install • Bridge Installed and completed. 	Ongoing

Cllr Lorna Dupré

MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2026

FULL COUNCIL

Business plan and budget

The full council met on Tuesday 10 February, to vote on the budget and business plan for 2026/27 to 2028/29. The proposals for a 'healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire', approved by a majority of councillors, include record spending on roads, thousands of extra school places, and support for vulnerable residents.

The nearly £1.3 billion business plan and budget includes a number of investments aligned with the council's three new ambitions.

Supporting a green and sustainable county

- an additional £20 million for highway maintenance.
- delivery of the council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy.
- £11 million to upgrade Household Recycling Centres at Milton and March.

Enabling full and healthy lives for all

- £14.7 million of additional funding for adult social care providers to help them manage rising costs and ensure care workers are paid the Real Living Wage, improving stability and quality for those who depend on care workers for their support.

Ensuring fairness and opportunity

- continuing holiday meal vouchers until the end of summer 2026 for those children most in need, despite the Government withdrawing the Household Support Fund; the council will also use the new £5 million Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide a wider range of anti-poverty measures, offering practical support to households facing financial challenges.
- 3,500 new primary school places, and £72 million over five years to increase secondary school places.
- £780,000 a year to run a children's residential home in South Cambridgeshire, along with continued funding for the Families First early intervention programme that helps keep more families together.
- more than £1.2 million will be invested in libraries and archives over the next two years.

Rising costs in social care and special educational needs are putting enormous pressure on council finances, and these statutory services for our most vulnerable residents now account for by far the largest part of our budget. Despite these national pressures we are still managing to invest in key priorities.

Thousands of people depend on our roads and paths every day and residents tell us repeatedly that highways are their top concern. We are continuing record levels of investment in maintenance, alongside additional support for overstretched social care, and continued funding for free school meal vouchers.

We will continue to challenge Government to recognise they are short-changing the communities of Cambridgeshire and to provide the right level of funding for services our residents deserve.

The plans include an increase of council tax by 4.99 per cent, the maximum permitted by Government for county councils, as is the case in nearly all councils across England, and the level assumed by Government in setting its grant allocations. This will generate around £21 million in additional funding and help the council continue providing the essential services people rely on.

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government's consultation on the options for local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is live until Friday 26 March.



Map of LGR option A



Map of LGR option B



Proposal D (left/first) and E (right/second)



The Government has chosen to consult on all four options submitted. These would replace the current county and district arrangements with new unitary authorities—a single council responsible for delivering all local government services in an area, rather than services being split across different councils.

Cambridgeshire County Council has submitted Option A (Two Councils. One Fairer Future.), which joins East Cambridgeshire with Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, and enables local residents to share in decision-making over the places where we work, study, shop, receive health care, and spend leisure time. Find out more at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/lgr/proposal/LGR-Option-A-Proposal-28-Nov-25.pdf>

Residents can view the options and submit their views online. Free use of computers, Wi-Fi and internet access is available at Cambridgeshire libraries, along with printed versions of the consultation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough>

The Government is expected to announce its final choice of option in the summer.

ASSETS AND PROCUREMENT

Cambridge Biomedical Campus

The County Council's Assets & Procurement Committee has agreed a partnership with developer Prologis to support the future expansion of Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

67 acres of land owned by the council is being put forward to allow the campus's next phase of growth. This will deliver space for life science research, development and innovation, co-working laboratories, learning spaces, a skills and training centre, key worker serviced apartments and offices for life science support companies.

Proposals include investment in transport infrastructure, green spaces and a community fund. The project will give the council a future commercial return, subject to planning permission, that will be used to help deliver our key services and support the council's ambitions.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Two new special schools for Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire County Council has asked the Department for Education to continue with the delivery of two new special schools in Gamlingay and March.

Greensands Academy Gamlingay and Lime Academy March had been approved for delivery by the DfE under the previous government, and are expected to provide 270 new special school places in Cambridgeshire.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

New system to combat poverty across Cambridgeshire

The council has agreed to procure a data-led system that will allow more targeted support for low-income families to address and prevent poverty.

In May 2025, the final report of the Cambridgeshire Poverty Strategy Commission recommended helping low-income individuals and households to ensure they are receiving all the money they are legally entitled to and also reduce their avoidable financial outgoings. This process, known as 'income maximisation', aims to help tackle financial hardship by preventing crisis, stabilising household budgets and supporting residents to become more financially resilient.

A new data-led system would lead to more systematic and earlier identification of those who would benefit from income maximisation—which evidence shows is one of the best ways of tackling poverty over the longer term.

South Cambridgeshire District Council have already adopted such a system, and in the last twelve months have secured nearly 1,000 additional claims for residents which are worth over £500,000 to residents in their first year alone, with a lifetime value of nearly £4 million based on average claim lengths.

Data-led systems used in other areas have shown a return on investment of over £400 for each £1 spent. This new platform will enable the council to focus on preventing residents from falling into poverty by building their financial resilience, reducing their future vulnerability and the need for subsequent more costly crisis interventions.

ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INVESTMENT

Safe disposal of batteries

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership RECAP is urging residents to recycle batteries and battery-powered electricals safely, following an increase in fires caused by incorrectly disposed lithium-ion batteries. Recent incidents include a fire at Thalia's Alconbury waste transfer station at New Year, as well as thirteen bin lorry fires across Cambridgeshire in the last twelve months.

In 2023, more than 1.6 billion batteries were thrown away in the UK, with over 1.1 billion hidden inside everyday household items such as phones, tablets, e-cigarettes, toothbrushes and power tools. When these items end up in general

waste or mixed recycling, batteries can ignite or explode during collection, transport or sorting.

Across the UK, over 1,200 waste-related fires were recorded in the past year—a 71% rise since 2022, posing significant risks to crews, the public and waste-handling facilities. Lithium-ion batteries are especially dangerous when crushed in lorries, and even small button or toy batteries can spark fires once compacted.

To help prevent fires, residents are urged never to place batteries in the bin, to use designated recycling points, tape over damaged terminals and check for local collection schemes.

All types of batteries can be recycled free of charge at Household Recycling Centres, supermarkets and DIY stores. This includes loose household batteries, lithium-ion and rechargeable batteries, and batteries in small electrical items. Any shop that sells batteries must also accept used batteries for recycling.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/battery-disposal>

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Potholes

The council is continuing to do everything it can to address the large numbers of road defects that have appeared in the last two months. This is a national issue so road repair crews are in demand everywhere.

Wet weather has reduced productivity and increased the chances of repair failure. Road space availability for road closures is hard to come by in some parts of the county; and internal resources are stretched and difficult to scale up. This has resulted in increased time required to respond to, and mark up, reports of fresh defects; longer times to fix marked potholes; and higher failure rates.

The highways service is responding as flexibly as it can; and the council continues to increase its own investment where Government funding falls so far short.

Road works

The 24/7 closure of Twentypence between Wilburton and Cottenham for works by Anglian Water was lifted three weeks earlier than planned.

Micro-asphalting works on High Road, Lawn Lane and Station Road in Little Downham passed without incident, and the project manager kept the parish clerk and me well informed throughout.

Work on the B1050 Earith Road in Willingham, from the Roseberry holiday park to the Willingham Coop, will begin on Monday 9 March and finish on Friday 27 March. The road will be closed from 8:00AM to 5:00PM during this time.

Straight Furlong Little Downham will be closed 24/7 from 16 March to 27 April, with working hours of 8:00AM to 6:00PM along the length of the road from Hundred Foot Bank to Main Street. And grip cutting will be taking place along Pymoor Lane and in other areas to drain surface water away from the carriageways.

Peat soil roads

St Neots & Mid Cambridgeshire MP Ian Sollom asked a question about Cambridgeshire's peat soil roads in Parliament a few weeks ago, and received an assurance that the issue would be raised with ministers.

Ian Sollom MP: The B1050 between Earith and Willingham in my constituency is one of many peat-affected roads in Cambridgeshire. Such roads cost up to four times more to repair than others, and repairs last just a fraction of the time. The Secretary of State will know that the funding formula for highways maintenance is based on road length and does not take account of geological conditions. These roads are really dangerous to drive on, and my constituents are really frightened. Will she consider creating a special budget for peat-affected roads, or at least adjusting the formula to take account of geological conditions?

Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP (Secretary of State for Transport): I appreciate that certain roads and certain parts of the country face different challenges due to their geology. I will certainly raise the hon. Member's point with the Roads Minister, and we will come back to him.

Maintenance programme for 2026/27

The maintenance programme for 2026/27 has been proposed to the Highways & Transport Committee. For the Sutton division this includes:

Surface treatment

- (C129) Station Road Little Downham, Lawn Lane to Black Bank Road
- (B1411) High Road Little Downham, Tower Road to Mill Hill
- (Unclassified) Sutton Court Sutton, Church Lane to end

Preparation for surface dressing

- (C125) High Road Little Downham, Mill Hill to Grunty Fen Drain
- (C124) Bury Lane Sutton, B1381 to bridge

Slurry seal of footway

- (Unclassified) The Row Sutton, throughout

In addition, the A1123 Hillrow Causeway in Haddenham and the B1381 near Earith and patches throughout will be included in the peat soil roads programme.

A1101 Bates Drove speed limit

Following a series of injury collisions, a serious motorcycle collision in June 2025 and a motorcycle fatality eight days later, a speed limit of 50MPH is to be implemented on Bates Drove between the top of Black Bank Little Downham and the top of Hundred Foot Bank Pymoor.

NEWS FROM THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

A10 Ely to Cambridge

The Department for Transport (DfT) has not yet replied to a letter from the Mayor about funding for the A10. Without this funding, there is no clear route to DfT funding for the completion of a Full Business Case or delivery of a preferred option.

In the meantime, the project team has explored approaches that would allow Outline Business Case work to advance. Options for the A10 run from dualling of the whole road to more targeted junction improvements, with indicative costs ranging from approximately £500 million to £80 million.

The Combined Authority is also working with Homes England to explore funding options, and this work will report in the spring.

Bus franchising

An independent review of bus franchising for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has issued a draft report to Combined Authority officers. Further detailed work will now be done, with an update to the Combined Authority's Transport Committee in June.

Electric vehicles

The Combined Authority has been granted £361,780 from the Government's Electric Vehicle pavement channels grant fund and is working with the county council and Peterborough on how this funding will be used.

Transport funding

In December 2025 the Department of Transport issued a letter to the Combined Authority confirming a four-year package of local transport funding allocations.

This settlement brings together a number of different funding streams into a single sum, and allows the Combined Authority to determine how these are allocated to the county council and Peterborough.

In return, the Combined Authority needs to submit to Government a Local Transport Delivery Plan for 2026/27, and an outline plan for the remaining years. The Government will use this to understand how local transport funding is being invested and to assess alignment with national priorities and outcomes.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Sutton surgery

Cllr Mark Inskip and I hold our monthly surgery at Joy Bistro 65 High Street Sutton. Forthcoming dates are Monday 30 March and Monday 27 April, 18:30-19:30.

I can also be contacted ...

- by email at lorna@lornadupre.org.uk
 - on Facebook
 - by phone on 07930 337596
-

Cllr Lorna Dupré

County Councillor for the Sutton division

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2026

FULL COUNCIL MEETING 24 FEBRUARY

Council budget set

The Council set its budget on 24 February. We proposed an alternative budget which would have

- established enforcement of on-street parking
- put an additional £100,000 into environmental initiatives
- given additional funding to arts, culture and tourism
- added more funding to support community facilities
- re-established an independent Citizens Advice presence in Ely

We would have paid for this through a £200,000 turnover allowance on staff costs, and a more realistic projection of income from interest.

This was defeated by the Chair's casting vote.

We also proposed to add civil parking enforcement to the list of schemes that can be funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy. This too was defeated by the Chair's casting vote.

Crematorium project takes another £300,000

The casting vote of the Chair of the Council saw a further £300,000 added to the mounting costs of the council leadership's crematorium project. Fourteen councillors voted for this, and fourteen (including us) against.

As previously reported, a recommendation to add the £300,000 to the burgeoning bill was made by the council's Finance & Assets Committee, also by a casting vote from the committee chair.

Councillors were originally told that the crematorium's £13 million contract price was fixed, but the scheme has already blown through all of its £400,000-plus contingency.

Inclusive play strategy and grants

Two years ago, we supported a successful motion by our colleague Cllr Chika Akinwale to carry out an inclusivity audit of local play areas and develop an inclusive play strategy. All this time later, the audit is still not completed and the strategy is nowhere to be seen.

So we were surprised when the council's political leadership proposed to use the element of the Community Infrastructure Levy set aside for inclusive play to offer grants for this purpose.

We made what we thought was the obvious point that it was not sensible to spend all the money on grants for inclusive play without a strategy, then publish a strategy when all the money had been spent. But again, we were defeated, on the casting vote of the Chair ...

UNADOPTED AMENITIES ON PRIVATELY MANAGED ESTATES

The Government is consulting on the growing issue of unadopted amenities on privately managed housing estates in England.

As this affects a considerable number of new build areas in East Cambridgeshire, Lorna has persuaded the District Council to make a response, and encouraged individual residents to do so too.

On many new developments, roads, swales, ditches, green spaces, and other communal infrastructure are maintained by private estate management companies rather than by public authorities.

Planning conditions set by the council may require the developer to maintain infrastructure for a certain number of years, but after that it's often unclear who will take responsibility, and who residents should be able to look to if there's a problem, such as flooding.

The government says it aims to:

- Reduce reliance on private estate management and increase adoption of amenities by public authorities
- Implement common standards for adoptable amenities to improve quality and consistency
- Explore mandatory adoption for certain public amenities, while considering exceptions for premium or exclusive features
- Remove perverse incentives that make non-adoption attractive to developers
- Improve data transparency, homeowner protections, and dispute resolution mechanisms
- Consider prohibiting embedded management arrangements and promoting resident-controlled management
- Assess financial sustainability of estate management charges and introduce affordability safeguards
- Seek evidence on impacts for homeowners, developers, local authorities, and management companies.

The consultation closes on 12 March.

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/leasehold-and-private-rented-sector/reducing-the-prevalence-of-private-estate/>

More information about the consultation is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reducing-the-prevalence-of-private-estate-management-arrangements/reducing-the-prevalence-of-private-estate-management-arrangements>

ANTI-SOCIAL DRIVING

Proposals for a Public Spaces Protection Order are due to be determined by the council's Operational Services Committee on Monday 23 March, following a period of public consultation. We have strongly supported the making of an Order to help curb this anti-social behaviour.

WITCHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Congratulations to Witcham Parish Council and residents of the village, whose Neighbourhood Plan received the support of ninety per cent of those who voted in the referendum on Thursday 12 February. The District Council agreed at its meeting on 24 February that the plan should be adopted, and we both spoke in support of this.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications in the Sutton ward which are still awaiting consideration include

- **The Bungalow, Hive Road, Witcham:** conversion from office to residential (26/00192/ERN)
- **17 Bridge Road, Mepal:** conversion, repair and partial demolition of redundant agricultural storage structures and elements of new build to create leisure and accommodation facility (25/00018/FUL)
- **78C High Street, Sutton:** change of use from office to dwelling (26/00008/ERN)
- **Three Pickerels, Mepal:** single storey function room within garden area to replace temporary marquee (25/01303/FUL)
- **Meadlands Farm, Sutton Gault:** replacement dwelling (25/01258/FUL)
- **104 High Street, Sutton:** demolition of existing garage and erection of five dwellings (25/01016/OUT)
- **Site between 8 and 14 Bridge Road, Mepal:** subdivision of existing horticultural site to create single self-build residential plot, retaining remainder for horticultural use (25/00421/OUT)
- **3 School Lane, Mepal:** construction of self-build dwelling and extension to garden (25/01344/FUL)

- **SE of 107 The Row, Sutton:** proposed lake and associated works (25/00114/FUL)
- **Garden Close, Sutton:** modification of planning obligation 17/01445/OUM affordable housing requirement (25/01097/MPO)
- **Garden Close, Sutton:** variation of approved plans 22/00057/RMM including removal of affordable housing (25/00667/VARM)

The request for variation of the affordable housing requirement at Garden Close in Sutton would leave the site with just four non-market price homes. And those four would be 'First Homes'—the national scheme for first-time home buyers to buy at a 30-50 per cent discount. So no affordable rental properties at all.

MARCH MEETINGS

- Wednesday 4 March: Planning Committee
 - Monday 9 March: Licensing (statutory sub-Committee)
 - Wednesday 18 March: Licensing Committee
 - Monday 23 March: Operational Services Committee
 - Thursday 26 March: Finance & Assets Committee
 - Tuesday 31 March: Audit Committee
-

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

We will be at Joy Bistro, 65 High Street, Sutton on Monday 30 March and Monday 27 April at 6:30-7:30PM (both dates changed from the usual first Monday because of Easter and the spring Bank Holiday). 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)

AGENDA ITEM 205/26 (2)

17/03/2026

Sutton Parish Council Current Year

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2026

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
100 Administration							
1076 Precept	200,000	200,000	0			100.0%	
Administration :- Income	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>0</u>			<u>100.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
4000 Office Staff Cost	53,516	62,550	9,034		9,034	85.6%	
4010 Time bank Coordinator salary	13,141	14,750	1,609		1,609	89.1%	
4015 Employee Expenses	135	150	15		15	90.1%	135
4020 Employer NIC	10,482	13,740	3,258		3,258	76.3%	
4045 Brightpay PAYE	134	600	466		466	22.3%	
4050 Employer Pension Contrib Costs	8,365	9,510	1,145		1,145	88.0%	
4055 Facilities Staff	27,392	31,500	4,108		4,108	87.0%	
4075 Lengthsman Staff	15,889	18,005	2,116		2,116	88.2%	
4120 Subscriptions	2,721	2,959	238		238	92.0%	
4125 Training/Conferences	1,718	1,650	(68)		(68)	104.1%	
4135 Phone/Internet	2,224	2,000	(224)		(224)	111.2%	
4140 Admin Costs	672	850	178		178	79.1%	60
4145 Photocopier	1,034	1,000	(34)		(34)	103.4%	
4150 Data Protection Fee	0	35	35		35	0.0%	
4155 Computer Equip & Support	3,501	2,500	(1,001)		(1,001)	140.0%	
4160 Insurance	4,752	6,000	1,248		1,248	79.2%	
4175 ICCM	105	100	(5)		(5)	105.0%	
4580 Licence: The Glebe	180	180	0		0	100.0%	
Administration :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>145,961</u>	<u>168,079</u>	<u>22,118</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>22,118</u>	<u>86.8%</u>	<u>195</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>54,039</u>	<u>31,921</u>	<u>(22,118)</u>				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	195	0	(195)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>54,234</u>	<u>31,921</u>	<u>(22,313)</u>				
150 Finance							
1090 Interest Rcvd	6,570	3,500	(3,070)			187.7%	
1100 Income from RBL Lease	1,500	1,500	0			100.0%	
1150 Community Infrastructure Levy	88,837	0	(88,837)			0.0%	88,837
Finance :- Income	<u>96,907</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(91,907)</u>			<u>1938.1%</u>	<u>88,837</u>
4100 Audit Fees	(16)	1,000	1,016		1,016	(1.6%)	
4110 Loan Repayments	6,645	13,129	6,484		6,484	50.6%	
Finance :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>6,629</u>	<u>14,129</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>46.9%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>90,278</u>	<u>(9,129)</u>	<u>(99,407)</u>				
6001 less Transfer To EMR	88,837	0	(88,837)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>1,441</u>	<u>(9,129)</u>	<u>(10,570)</u>				

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2026

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>200 Communications & PR</u>							
4200 Newsletter	661	650	(11)		(11)	101.7%	
4210 Website	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4225 PR	110	100	(10)		(10)	110.0%	
Communications & PR :- Indirect Expenditure	771	1,050	279	0	279	73.4%	0
Net Expenditure	(771)	(1,050)	(279)				
<u>250 Grants Made</u>							
4300 Section 137	2,926	2,500	(426)		(426)	117.0%	
Grants Made :- Indirect Expenditure	2,926	2,500	(426)	0	(426)	117.0%	0
Net Expenditure	(2,926)	(2,500)	426				
<u>300 Play Area/ Open Space</u>							
4415 Lottery Grant	(7,150)	0	7,150			0.0%	
Play Area/ Open Space :- Income	(7,150)	0	7,150				0
4025 Groundsman	484	550	66		66	88.0%	
4400 Repairs & Maintenance	10,956	0	(10,956)		(10,956)	0.0%	7,047
4405 ROSPA & ECDC Inspection	116	250	134		134	46.4%	
Play Area/ Open Space :- Indirect Expenditure	11,556	800	(10,756)	0	(10,756)	1444.5%	7,047
Net Income over Expenditure	(18,706)	(800)	17,906				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	7,047	0	(7,047)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(11,659)	(800)	10,859				
<u>310 Highway and Conservation</u>							
1105 Income from Agency Services	2,043	2,395	352			85.3%	
2010 Christmas tree donation	176	200	24			88.0%	
Highway and Conservation :- Income	2,219	2,595	376			85.5%	0
5040 Tree surveys & Tree works	800	800	0		0	100.0%	
Highway and Conservation :- Direct Expenditure	800	800	0	0	0	100.0%	0
2000 Christmas Trees/lights	2,948	3,100	152		152	95.1%	
4430 Agency Services Costs	0	2,300	2,300		2,300	0.0%	
4435 Street Lighting	1,395	900	(495)		(495)	155.0%	
4440 Street Furniture	998	0	(998)		(998)	0.0%	998
4460 Speed Surveys	7,925	0	(7,925)		(7,925)	0.0%	7,675
4462 Village planting	139	150	11		11	92.7%	
Highway and Conservation :- Indirect Expenditure	13,405	6,450	(6,955)	0	(6,955)	207.8%	8,673
Net Income over Expenditure	(11,986)	(4,655)	7,331				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	8,673	0	(8,673)				

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2026

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(3,313)	(4,655)	(1,342)				
<u>330 Burial Ground</u>							
1185 Income from Burials	2,760	2,500	(260)			110.4%	
Burial Ground :- Income	2,760	2,500	(260)			110.4%	0
4400 Repairs & Maintenance	900	0	(900)		(900)	0.0%	900
4470 Burial Ground Skip Hire	330	750	420		420	44.0%	
4485 Non-domestic Rates Expenses	309	350	41		41	88.4%	
Burial Ground :- Indirect Expenditure	1,539	1,100	(439)	0	(439)	139.9%	900
Net Income over Expenditure	1,221	1,400	179				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	900	0	(900)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	2,121	1,400	(721)				
<u>340 Allotments</u>							
1190 Income from Rent	2,517	2,517	0			100.0%	
1195 Income: Allotment Drain Rates	404	440	36			91.9%	
1200 Income from Admin	36	40	4			90.0%	
Allotments :- Income	2,957	2,997	40			98.7%	0
4140 Admin Costs	0	40	40		40	0.0%	
4500 Rent	1,000	2,400	1,400		1,400	41.7%	
4505 Allotment Drainage Rates	404	440	36		36	91.9%	
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	1,404	2,880	1,476	0	1,476	48.8%	0
Net income over Expenditure	1,553	117	(1,436)				
<u>350 Facilities Services</u>							
5045 Defibrillator	213	500	287		287	42.6%	
Facilities Services :- Direct Expenditure	213	500	287	0	287	42.6%	0
4400 Repairs & Maintenance	9,623	0	(9,623)		(9,623)	0.0%	
4520 Safety & Security	1,760	2,000	240		240	88.0%	
4525 Cleaning Materials	517	700	183		183	73.8%	
4530 Sanitation	2,015	2,000	(15)		(15)	100.7%	
4630 Health & Safety Clothing	38	100	62		62	38.1%	
4640 Lengthsman equipment	233	120	(113)		(113)	194.4%	
Facilities Services :- Indirect Expenditure	14,185	4,920	(9,265)	0	(9,265)	288.3%	0
Net Expenditure	(14,399)	(5,420)	8,979				

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2026

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>360 Community Room</u>							
1190 Income from Rent	287	330	43			87.1%	
Community Room :- Income	<u>287</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>43</u>			<u>87.1%</u>	<u>.0</u>
4400 Repairs & Maintenance	376	0	(376)		(376)	0.0%	376
4485 Non-domestic Rates Expenses	661	661	(0)		(0)	100.0%	
Community Room :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>1,038</u>	<u>661</u>	<u>(377)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(377)</u>	<u>157.0%</u>	<u>376</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(750)</u>	<u>(331)</u>	<u>419</u>				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	376	0	(376)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(374)</u>	<u>(331)</u>	<u>43</u>				
<u>400 Football Pitches</u>							
4490 Grass Cutting	1,200	1,200	0		0	100.0%	
4550 Utilities	(500)	0	500		500	0.0%	
Football Pitches :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>700</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>58.3%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(700)</u>	<u>(1,200)</u>	<u>(500)</u>				
<u>420 Playing Field & Paddock</u>							
4510 Tree Maintenance	1,000	600	(400)		(400)	166.7%	400
Playing Field & Paddock :- Direct Expenditure	<u>1,000</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>(400)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(400)</u>	<u>166.7%</u>	<u>400</u>
4490 Grass Cutting	1,229	1,000	(229)		(229)	122.9%	228
4500 Rent	235	260	25		25	90.6%	
Playing Field & Paddock :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>1,464</u>	<u>1,260</u>	<u>(204)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(204)</u>	<u>116.2%</u>	<u>228</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(2,464)</u>	<u>(1,860)</u>	<u>604</u>				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	628	0	(628)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(1,836)</u>	<u>(1,860)</u>	<u>(24)</u>				
<u>440 Pavilion</u>							
1190 Income from Rent	6,480	7,000	520			92.6%	
4401 Sport England Grant	6,000	0	(6,000)			0.0%	6,000
Pavilion :- Income	<u>12,480</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>(5,480)</u>			<u>178.3%</u>	<u>6,000</u>
4400 Repairs & Maintenance	17,073	0	(17,073)		(17,073)	0.0%	17,115
4485 Non-domestic Rates Expenses	2,645	2,860	215		215	92.5%	
4550 Utilities	6,370	6,800	430		430	93.7%	
Pavilion :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>26,088</u>	<u>9,660</u>	<u>(16,428)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(16,428)</u>	<u>270.1%</u>	<u>17,115</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(13,608)</u>	<u>(2,660)</u>	<u>10,948</u>				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	17,115	0	(17,115)				
6001 less Transfer To EMR	6,000	0	(6,000)				

Continued over page

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2026

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(2,493)	(2,660)	(167)				
<u>480 The Glebe</u>							
1190 Income from Rent	12,297	13,000	703			94.6%	
The Glebe :- Income	12,297	13,000	703			94.6%	0
4400 Repairs & Maintenance	4,221	0	(4,221)		(4,221)	0.0%	4,221
4485 Non-domestic Rates Expenses	3,343	3,500	157		157	95.5%	
4550 Utilities	6,273	6,000	(273)		(273)	104.5%	
4555 Ikonc Lift Service/Repair	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
The Glebe :- Indirect Expenditure	13,837	10,000	(3,837)	0	(3,837)	138.4%	4,221
Net Income over Expenditure	(1,540)	3,000	4,540				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	4,221	0	(4,221)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	2,681	3,000	319				
<u>500 Contingencies Earmarked Funds</u>							
4610 Contingency	0	1,295	1,295		1,295	0.0%	
Contingencies Earmarked Funds :- Indirect Expenditure	0	1,295	1,295	0	1,295	0.0%	0
Net Expenditure	0	(1,295)	(1,295)				
<u>520 Vehicles</u>							
5030 Van Insurance	627	700	73		73	89.5%	
Vehicles :- Direct Expenditure	627	700	73	0	73	89.5%	0
5015 Road tax for Van	385	400	16		16	96.1%	
5020 Fuel for vehicle	127	330	203		203	38.5%	
5060 Van Maintenance	226	500	274		274	45.2%	
Vehicles :- Indirect Expenditure	737	1,230	493	0	493	59.9%	0
Net Expenditure	(1,364)	(1,930)	(566)				
<u>530 Time Banking</u>							
1226 Donations to Timebank	809	800	(9)			101.1%	674
Time Banking :- Income	809	800	(9)			101.1%	674
4335 Time Bank Equipment	556	250	(306)		(306)	222.3%	556
Time Banking :- Direct Expenditure	556	250	(306)	0	(306)	222.3%	556
4330 Timebank UK Subscription	150	200	50		50	75.0%	
Time Banking :- Indirect Expenditure	150	200	50	0	50	75.0%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	103	350	247				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	556	0	(556)				
6001 less Transfer To EMR	674	0	(674)				

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2026

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(15)	350	365				
<u>540 Summer Hols Sports Project</u>							
1280 Grant	6,000	0	(6,000)			0.0%	6,000
Summer Hols Sports Project :- Income	6,000	0	(6,000)				6,000
5055 Sports Holiday Club	4,200	0	(4,200)		(4,200)	0.0%	4,200
Summer Hols Sports Project :- Indirect Expenditure	4,200	0	(4,200)	0	(4,200)		4,200
Net Income over Expenditure	1,800	0	(1,800)				
6000 plus Transfer From EMR	4,200	0	(4,200)				
6001 less Transfer To EMR	6,000	0	(6,000)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0	0	0				
Grand Totals:- Income	329,566	234,222	(95,344)			140.7%	
Expenditure	249,786	230,264	(19,522)	0	(19,522)	108.5%	
Net Income over Expenditure	79,780	3,958	(75,822)				
plus Transfer From EMR	43,912	0	(43,912)				
less Transfer To EMR	101,511	0	(101,511)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	22,181	3,958	(18,223)				



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555
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:

Philip Baum

Telephone: 01353 665555
E-mail: plservices@eastcambs.gov.uk
My Ref: 26/00008/ERN
Your ref

2nd March 2026

Dear Clerk

Proposal: Change of use from office to dwelling
Location: 78C High Street Sutton Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2NW
Reference: 26/00008/ERN

I am writing to inform you that the above proposal has been considered and it was resolved to grant prior approval.

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=T8EHCWGGGZ200>.

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

Yours faithfully

Philip Baum
Planning Officer

Agenda Item: 206/26 1a



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

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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:

Cassy Paterson

Telephone: 01353 665555
E-mail: plservices@eastcambs.gov.uk
My Ref: 25/01258/FUL
Your ref

2nd March 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal: Replacement dwelling with new access
Location: Meadlands Farm The Gault Sutton Cambridgeshire CB6 2BJ
Reference: 25/01258/FUL

An amended plan/additional information has been received for this application on 11th February 2026.

The amendment involves/Additional information received includes

Please see the amended plans to include new access and closure of the existing access.

Please complete and return the attached sheet with any comments and/or observations your Council may have by 16th March 2026. 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 16th March 2026, it will be assumed that your Council does not wish to make any comments on this application unless you advise us otherwise.

You can view the amended information on our Public Access page (<http://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T5VK3AGGLWZ00>).

Yours faithfully

Cassy Paterson
Planning Officer

EXTENSION REQUESTED

Agenda Item 206/26 2a



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555
www.eastcambs.gov.uk

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

This matter is being dealt with by:

Philip Baum

Telephone: 01353 665555
E-mail: plservices@eastcambs.gov.uk
My Ref: 26/00214/FUL
Your ref

12th March 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal: Demolish existing single storey store and part boundary wall, construct replacement single storey store, extend existing drop kerb to provide two off-street parking spaces
Location: 35 High Street Sutton Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2RB
Reference: 26/00214/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 2nd April 2026. 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=TAWH2WGGJQM00>. 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 2nd April 2026, 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 Philip Baum on 01353 665555.

Yours faithfully

Philip Baum
Planning Officer

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EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555
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:

Kevin Drane

Telephone: 01353 665555
E-mail: plservices@eastcambs.gov.uk
My Ref: 26/00152/TRE
Your ref

18th March 2026

Dear Clerk

Proposal: T1 Weeping Willow - Pruning of lower hanging branches only, by approximately 1 metre, to maintain a 2-3m clearance over the footpath and for general tree upkeep. With ongoing consent to maintain the clearance as and when required for a period of 5 years from the determination date.

Location: 9 Eastwood Close Sutton Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2RH

Reference: 26/00152/TRE

I am writing to inform you that the above proposal has been considered and it was resolved to allow the above works to be carried out.

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=TA6JO3GGIY800>.

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

Yours faithfully

Kevin Drane
Trees Officer

Agenda Item

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BUSINESS PLAN 2026 - 2027

V1



Agenda Item 207/26

Sutton Parish Council Business Plan 2026 – 2027

The Business Plan sets out the work of Sutton Parish Council, its day-to-day work, projects and strategic planning. The Council's work is based on Proper Practices and legislation of which the council has a duty to abide. The Council set the budget for 2026-2027 in December 2025, of which the objectives are linked.

Our Vision

To make Sutton Parish a safe, healthy and vibrant place to live and work and to represent and uphold the best interests of the village and its residents.

Aim

- To ensure good governance.
- To enhance communication between the council and community.
- To provide high-standard, cost effective services for the betterment of the local community.
- To manage the Parish Council's assets and finances to achieve best value.

COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
<p>Functioning Council</p> <p>Transparency</p> <p>Risk Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 10 meetings per year including the Annual meeting of the Council (held in May) and the Annual meeting of the Electorate (held between 1st March and 1st June) • Ensure that all meetings have a public participation session (where the public and press are invited to attend). • Ensure agendas, minutes, policies and finances are on the website. • Risk Management Policy to be updated annually in May. • Play area risk assessments to be carried out: Daily – Visual inspection by Parish Council staff. Quarterly – Operational assessment by ECDC. Annually – Full assessment. • To carry out risk assessment of council assets and functions at least annually.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONTROLS

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual budget to be reviewed by the Finance Working Party meeting in November, and to be approved by Full Council in January. • Precept request to be submitted to ECDC by the end of January.
Financial Assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget to actual figures to be reviewed by the Finance Working party each month, and to be agreed by Full Council. • Payments made and checked by two councillors each month prior to releasing payments.
Internal Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit to be carried out once per annum (year end)
External Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure external audit documentation is submitted on time. • Display the Notice to Electors by the published date. • Ensure all external audit actions are completed
Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and update the Investment Strategy.
Funding Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate various funding options available for projects. I.e grants, CIL, loans EMR, GR.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
Developing Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to and making representations on the views of residents.
Continuing Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using various methods available including the annual Summer Newsletter, The Pepperpot, Parish Council Website, Facebook and Noticeboards.
Council Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the website is relevant and kept up to date.

<p>Social Media</p> <p>Grant Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor Facebook page and update as required. • Provide opportunity for parish organisations to apply for grant funding (providing they meet criteria) • To signpost and encourage parish organisations to apply for grant funding from other bodies.
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COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
<p>Clerk to the Council</p> <p>Councillors</p> <p>Legislation and Procedures</p> <p>Existing Staff</p> <p>General Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Clerk to the Council has, or is working to, the CILCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification • Support the Clerk in any ongoing continuing professional development. • Encourage Councillors to attend the introductory training provided by CAPALC as soon as practical after election/co-option. • Encourage the Chairman of the Council and Chairman of Committees to attend the Chairmanship training provided by CAPALC. • Support Councillors with ongoing training where necessary. • Ensure Councillors and Officers are kept up to date with current legislation and procedures by attendance at SLCC and CAPALC meetings, briefings and training. • Ensure correct policies and procedures, as per legislation and proper practices are in place and up to date. • Ensure capacity of staff is not stretched and provide relevant support where required. • To provide annual appraisals • Develop professional employment documents for current and future employees

Engagement with CCC and ECDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure continuing attendance at council meetings by CCC and ECDC councillors • Develop and maintain relationships with CCC and ECDC Officers.
Succession Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents to stand for office at local elections and to fill vacancies as they arise. • Encourage ongoing participation from councillors and support potential future Chairmen. • Develop hand over documents/procedures for the running of the council.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance communication between the community and the council. • Consider various community projects to assist residents in the parish. (Sutton Timebank)
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To re-visit the 'Community Engagement Policy' (Required for Quality Council status) • Encourage residents to volunteer in projects to benefit the village.
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a better understanding of the demographics for the parish allowing the council to tailor services to meet all requirements.

PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
Burial Ground The Glebe Community Centre, and Parish Council Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with Lengthsman to ensure burial ground is kept to a high standard • To ensure that all records are kept up to date and accurate. • To ensure burial regulations are up to date and relevant. • To review burial fees on a bi-annual basis. • To continue to maintain the facility to a high standard. • To facilitate the use of the facility by various community groups, businesses and residents.

<p>Pavilion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the hire availability of the facility. • To update hire charge annually based on CPI in November.
<p>Community Room</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to maintain the facility to a high standard. • To facilitate the use of the facility by various sports clubs, community groups, businesses and residents. • To promote the hire availability of the facility. • To update hire charge annually based on CPI in November.
<p>Open Spaces Windmill Walk The Paddock and Orchard Corner of Pound Lane Stirling Way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to maintain the facility to a high standard. • To facilitate the use of the facility by various groups, businesses and residents. • To promote the hire availability of the facility. • To update hire charge annually based on CPI in November.
<p>Football Pitches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to maintain the open spaces to a high standard. • Work with Sutton Open Spaces Group, Sutton Conservation Society and Sutton Garden Club Volunteers. • Ensure pitches are maintained to a high standard and to the requirements of the village football clubs.

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	WHO	TIMELINE
PFLHI SCHEME	To apply to CCC under the PFLHI scheme for 20mph limit to The Row, Painters Lane, West Lodge Lane and Mepal Road.	Traffic and Transport Working Party and Clerk	CCC timescale
SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPORTS PROJECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide 3 weeks of sports activities for young people during August. (Via grant funding) 	Clerk	August 2026
LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve Quality Council status of the Local Council Award Scheme 	Clerk and Council	November 2026
THE GLEBE MAINTENANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair windows 	Clerk	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	WHO	TIMELINE
LIBRARY ACCESS POINT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To research the viability of a Library Access Point and a suitable location 	Library Access Point Working Party and Clerk	Ongoing
PROVISION FOR YOUTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To research provision for youth requirements for the village 	Provision for Youth Working Party and Clerk	April 2026
NEW BURIAL GROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To commence with research into the provision of an additional Burial Ground. (Mepal Road) 	Clerk	Ongoing
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work towards a village Climate Change Action Plan 	Climate Change Working Party and Clerk.	Ongoing
SUTTON TIMEBANK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to support Sutton Timebank and related projects 	Clerk and Council.	Ongoing
WAR MEMORIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade war memorial Apply for grant funding for the work. 	Clerk	Ongoing
BOWLS CLUB FOOTWAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurface footway around Bowls Green 	Clerk & Open Spaces WP	Ongoing
LHI Weight Restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent cut through to A14 by HGVs 	Clerk & Traffic and Transport WP	Ongoing
Double Yellow lines at Junctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent poor parking and increase visibility and road safety 	Clerk & Traffic and Transport WP	Awaiting outcome of application
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		

Clerks Report

1. Anti Social Behaviour

No more vandalism has been reported at The Pavilion.

SoloProtect devices are now being used by staff.

Awaiting install date for new CCTV – £2651.80 Secure Your Farm

2. Projects

Bridge at Old Rec/Paddock is now installed.

Bowls Club Footpath is now complete.

3. Highways

All defects in Sutton have been reported including blocked gullies, potholes, signs.

4. Deputy Clerk

Melanie has now left the PC with a leaving date of the 19th March 2026.

5. Youth Club

Start date will be 14th April at 5.30pm at The Pavilion.

Posters etc to go out on social media, website, notice boards.

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to share with you a new petition I have launched calling for urgent action and fair funding to repair fen-soil affected roads across Cambridgeshire.

I am writing to you following a request that it be shared with Parish Councils. Even if your parish is not directly affected by fen-soil subsidence, the high cost of repairing these roads is placing significant pressure on the county's highways budget, meaning less funding is available for other roads across the network.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the petition to your parishioners. The more residents who sign, the stronger our case becomes for securing the investment Cambridgeshire urgently needs.

Find the petition [here](#).

Thank you in advance for your support.

[Government Must Fund Repairs to Cambridgeshire's Soil-Affected Roads - Ely and East Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrats](#)

Agenda Item 210/26

SOIL AFFECTED ROADS

Local Government Reorganisation

What Sutton-in-the-Isle Needs to Know — and Could Do Now

CAPALC Parish Briefing — March 2026 — prepared with the assistance of AI, there may be some errors

LGR is underway. The question is whether Sutton-in-the-Isle is prepared for the practical consequences — or risks discovering them after the window to act has closed.

How Each Option Affects Your Parish

The government consultation numbers the four proposals 1–4. The local option letters (A, B, D, E) used throughout this briefing correspond to Proposals 2, 1, 3 and 4 respectively. Each proposer chose their own working names for the new authorities (e.g. 'North West', 'South East', 'North East'); this briefing uses more descriptive names to help distinguish the authorities across options.

Option	Your UA	Parishes	Key Risk
A (Proposal 2)	Southeast Unitary Council (South Cambs + East Cambs + Cambridge City)	138	Large mixed authority; rural parishes may be overshadowed
B (Proposal 1)	North Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (Hunts + Fenland + East Cambs + Peterborough)	156	Largest UA — practical influence diluted, multiple developer contribution regimes to reconcile
D (Proposal 4)	Mid Cambridgeshire (East Hunts + East Cambs + Fenland)	90	Weakest financial base; no dominant urban centre; CIL/S106 regime change
E (Proposal 3)	North-East Cambridgeshire (Peterborough + East Cambs + Fenland)	78	Peterborough-anchored, three developer contribution regimes to reconcile, rural parishes risk being overshadowed

The Risks That Matter Most to Sutton-in-the-Isle

Planning influence diluted — but legal weight unchanged. Sutton-in-the-Isle remains a statutory consultee under all options. The legal weight of parish comments does not change. The practical risk is that fewer officers covering more parishes means less capacity to engage meaningfully with Sutton-in-the-Isle's responses, and less local knowledge to interpret them. A larger authority dilutes influence, not legal standing.

Developer contribution regime could change entirely. As a East Cambs parish, Sutton-in-the-Isle currently sits under a CIL regime (£125/m² indexed). Under options that merge East Cambs with districts using S106 only, the parish could move from a CIL authority to an S106 authority — changing the entire developer contribution regime, not just the rate. The greater risk is administrative: whether the new UA collects contributions promptly and allocates funds without delay. CIL should not be relied upon as a primary funding source regardless of option.

Neighbourhood Plan needs active protection. Sutton-in-the-Isle has made a Neighbourhood Plan, which provides statutory weight in planning decisions. However, NP policies must be in general conformity with the Local Plan's strategic policies. When the new UA writes its Local Plan, existing NP policies may need review. The parish should monitor the new Local Plan process closely to protect its NP's provisions.

Relationships with officers may need to be rebuilt. The working relationships your clerk and councillors have built with current district and county officers could be disrupted. Officers in a new authority may not have the same familiarity with your parish. The transition period (to April 2028) is when parish issues are most likely to fall between the cracks.

What Sutton-in-the-Isle Could Do Now

Document existing commitments. Record all current S106 payments, CIL neighbourhood portion payments due, grant agreements, SLAs, and concurrent function funding. These are at risk during transition and must be actively chased with the new authority.

Identify which promised benefits are statutory and which are discretionary. For every benefit cited in an LGR proposal (parish forums, locality working, asset devolution), ask whether it is written into law, constitution, or binding agreement — or whether it is simply a stated intention.

Press for embedding during transition. This is the window where the Parish Council has the strongest negotiating position. Once the new authority is operational, engagement promises are easily deprioritised. Press for a parish charter and constitutional recognition.

Model financial impact. Prepare for potential precept implications from lost grant schemes, concurrent function changes, and possible asset or service transfers. Communicate proactively with residents about what the precept pays for.

Engage your ward and division councillors. Your current ward and division councillors are your advocates within the principal authorities. Ensure they understand your parish's specific concerns and are briefed to raise them during transition planning.

Protect your Neighbourhood Plan. Monitor the new UA's Local Plan process to ensure your NP policies remain in conformity. Consider whether a review or update is needed once the new strategic framework emerges. CAPALC can advise.

Note on bus services: Bus service funding sits with the Combined Authority (CPCA) under the Mayor and is unaffected by LGR. The transport risk for parishes is around highways maintenance priorities and local road management transferring to a new UA — not bus subsidies.

The full option-by-option analysis follows on the next page. Contact CAPALC at info@capalc.org.uk for support.

Your Parish At A Glance

Parish: Sutton-in-the-Isle
District: East Cambridgeshire
Population (2023): 4,225
Dwellings (2023): 1,835
Parish type: Variable-UA
Neighbourhood Plan: Made (in force)

As a East Cambridgeshire parish, Sutton-in-the-Isle could fall under different unitary authorities depending on which option is selected: Mid Cambridgeshire, North Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, North-East Cambridgeshire, Southeast Unitary Council. This means the character, priorities and scale of your principal authority vary significantly between options — and so do the practical consequences for your parish.

Your Parish Under Each Option

Option A: Southeast Unitary

Merges: Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire
Parishes: 138
Character: Cambridge-anchored, growth-focused authority

Option B: North Cambs & Peterborough

Merges: Huntingdonshire, Fenland, East Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Parishes: 156
Character: Very large authority, the biggest proposed UA by parish count

Option D: Mid Cambridgeshire

Merges: East Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland
Parishes: 90
Character: Predominantly rural authority without a central urban hub

Option E: North-East Cambridgeshire

Merges: Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland
Parishes: 78
Character: Large mixed authority combining Peterborough city with two rural districts

How Each Option Affects Key Impacts

A. Planning & Development

Option A (Southeast Unitary):

Local Plan: Cambridge's strategic growth agenda would be a major influence. There is a question about whether housing allocations might increasingly be directed to rural South Cambs parishes.

Developer Contributions: South Cambs currently uses S106 only (no CIL). East Cambs CIL at £125/m² indexed. New authority will need a unified approach to developer contributions.

Option B (North Cambs & Peterborough):

Local Plan: Local Plan would cover the largest proposed area. Strategic housing pressures from multiple growth corridors would need to be balanced. It is worth considering whether Huntingdonshire's emerging defence sector growth might receive less attention alongside Peterborough and East Cambridgeshire priorities.

Developer Contributions: Merges four different regimes: Hunts CIL (£152/m² indexed), East Cambs CIL (£125/m² indexed), Peterborough CIL (£70/m² indexed, 15+ units only) and Fenland (£106 only, no CIL) — harmonising four different approaches would be complex, and Huntingdonshire parishes may want to consider how this could affect their current CIL income

Option D (Mid Cambridgeshire):

Local Plan: Local Plan would cover eastern Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland — a large, predominantly rural area. Huntingdonshire's district-wide Local Plan would be split, with western parishes under Greater Peterborough. There is no dominant urban centre, which could help rural parish concerns be heard, but the authority would also lack the economic weight of a major city.

Developer Contributions: Merges three different regimes: Hunts CIL (£152/m² indexed), East Cambs CIL (£125/m² indexed) and Fenland (£106 only, no CIL). Harmonisation would be needed, and Huntingdonshire parishes may want to consider how this could affect their current CIL income.

Option E (North-East Cambridgeshire):

Local Plan: Three different planning regimes to merge. Peterborough's strategic growth priorities would carry significant weight alongside Ely and Fenland market towns. Rural parishes may find it harder to influence planning decisions alongside a major urban centre.

Developer Contributions: Merges three different regimes: East Cambs CIL (£125/m² indexed), Peterborough CIL (£70/m² indexed, 15+ units only) and Fenland (£106 only, no CIL) — harmonising three approaches would be complex, and East Cambridgeshire parishes may want to consider how this could affect their current CIL income

FROM YOUR DATA: 31% of households have dependent children (780 children aged 0–15). New housing allocations would ideally account for school capacity, play areas and youth infrastructure.

B. Finance & Funding

Option A (Southeast Unitary):

Council Tax: Wide council tax harmonisation gap between Cambridge City and rural districts.

Rural/Urban: Cambridge carries significant economic and political weight. Rural parishes may want to consider how to ensure they are not seen primarily as Cambridge's hinterland.

Option B (North Cambs & Peterborough):

Council Tax: Harmonisation across four former districts with the widest range of current council tax rates. The largest budget for absorbing social care costs, but also the most competing demands to balance.

Rural/Urban: Peterborough's urban population plus multiple market towns. Rural Huntingdonshire parishes may find it harder to be heard in such a large authority.

Option D (Mid Cambridgeshire):

Council Tax: Mid Cambridgeshire would have the weakest financial base of Option D's three authorities. The independent assessment found Option D's services would cost £3.7m more than current by 2040. Council tax harmonisation across three former districts with different rates.

Rural/Urban: No dominant urban centre. Predominantly rural with market towns (St Ives, St Neots, Ramsey, Ely). Parish voice could be strong, though it is worth considering whether the authority would have sufficient financial resources to act on parish concerns.

Option E (North-East Cambridgeshire):

Council Tax: Council tax harmonisation across Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland with different current rates. Peterborough’s social care costs would be shared across the merged base, though the combined tax base is stronger than a rural-only authority.

Rural/Urban: Peterborough’s urban population would carry significant weight in political representation. Rural East Cambridgeshire and Fenland parishes may find it harder to secure attention and resources alongside a large urban centre.

FROM YOUR DATA: 12% of housing is social rented, meaning a narrower council tax base and residents who may be more affected by any service changes.

C. Governance, Services & Representation

Option A (Southeast Unitary):

Representation: Cambridge is unparished — parish councils only exist in South Cambs and East Cambs. It would be worth considering how attention and resources might be balanced between parished and unparished areas.

Services: Strong service capacity from Cambridge City resources, though services could tend towards urban-centric design.

Option B (North Cambs & Peterborough):

Representation: The largest proposed UA by parish count. Even with ~100 councillors, each would represent a very large area. Parish forums across this geography could be challenging to make effective. This option would represent the biggest change from current parish-officer relationships.

Services: Greatest financial resilience from scale, though also the highest potential for centralisation. Parish-level service responsiveness could be more difficult to maintain. Named locality officers would be particularly important but may be harder to sustain at this scale.

Option D (Mid Cambridgeshire):

Representation: Around 90 parishes in a predominantly rural authority. No dominant urban centre, which could strengthen parish voice. However, the independent assessment raised concerns about this authority’s financial sustainability and ability to deliver complex services at scale.

Services: The independent assessment rated Option D’s service delivery at 2 out of 5. Mid Cambridgeshire would have a weaker economic base and higher initial transition costs (£140.7m). Without a central urban hub, service delivery could be more challenging to organise efficiently. Three separate management teams across the three UAs would increase overhead costs.

Option E (North-East Cambridgeshire):

Representation: 78 parishes in a Peterborough-anchored authority. Peterborough’s urban population would carry significant political weight. Rural East Cambridgeshire and Fenland parishes may find it harder to build close relationships with their UA councillor.

Services: Peterborough brings existing unitary service capacity, providing a stronger financial base than a purely rural authority. However, there is a trade-off: service design and investment priorities could lean towards Peterborough’s urban needs rather than rural requirements.

FROM YOUR DATA: With 4,225 residents, Sutton-in-the-Isle has the scale to be a credible partner for the new UA — and it may be worth seeking engagement mechanisms that are constitutionally embedded rather than discretionary.

D. Highways & Transport

Option A (Southeast Unitary):

CCC highways responsibilities transfer to Southeast Unitary. With 138 parishes, your highway improvement priorities would need to be heard alongside a much larger area.

Option B (North Cambs & Peterborough):

CCC highways responsibilities transfer to North Cambs & Peterborough. With 156 parishes, your highway improvement priorities would need to be heard alongside a much larger area.

Option D (Mid Cambridgeshire):

CCC highways responsibilities transfer to Mid Cambridgeshire. With 90 parishes, highway priorities would remain more locally focused, which could help your concerns be heard more readily.

Option E (North-East Cambridgeshire):

CCC highways responsibilities transfer to North-East Cambridgeshire. With 78 parishes, highway priorities would remain more locally focused, which could help your concerns be heard more readily.

E. Flooding & Environment

Option A (Southeast Unitary):

Relatively lower flood risk geography, but chalk stream and clay soil drainage issues in South Cambs.

Option B (North Cambs & Peterborough):

Lead Local Flood Authority would cover the most diverse geography: Fenland floodplain, Great Ouse catchment, and urban Peterborough drainage. There is a question about whether expertise could be spread too thin across such varied needs.

Option D (Mid Cambridgeshire):

Lead Local Flood Authority would cover Great Ouse catchment (eastern Huntingdonshire), Fenland floodplain, and East Cambridgeshire. Diverse flood risk but coherent enough geography for effective management.

Option E (North-East Cambridgeshire):

Lead Local Flood Authority would cover Peterborough urban drainage, Fenland floodplain and East Cambridgeshire catchments. Fenland flood risk is nationally significant. Diverse flood risk types to manage across a large geography.

F. Education, Health & Social Care

These services are currently managed county-wide by CCC. Under LGR they transfer to the new UA(s). While not directly controlled by parishes, they significantly affect residents and take up a large share of UA budgets – which could reduce the discretionary spending that parishes often benefit from.

Option A (Southeast Unitary):

Greater financial resilience for social care, but resources spread across a larger population.

Option B (North Cambs & Peterborough):

Greater financial resilience for social care, but resources spread across a larger population.

Option D (Mid Cambridgeshire):

Moderate financial base for social care. Competing demands from a mixed urban/rural population.

Option E (North-East Cambridgeshire):

A smaller revenue base could make financial pressures more keenly felt. Social care costs may have a greater impact on other services.

FROM YOUR DATA: 780 children aged 0–15 live in Sutton-in-the-Isle (18% of the population). School place planning, currently managed county-wide by CCC, transfers to the new UA. If the new authority covers a larger or differently shaped

area, catchment planning could become more complex, and it is worth considering how SEND provision might be affected. With 180 children aged 0–3, early years and childcare provision is also a live concern that will transfer to the new authority.

Risks Common To All Options

Regardless of which option is selected, every parish faces these risks:

- **TRANSITION DISRUPTION (to April 2028)** — Both old and new authorities operate simultaneously. Officer capacity may be stretched by merger logistics, which could affect response times. Planning processing could slow. It is worth keeping a close eye on existing S106 payments, grants and contracts to make sure they carry across.
- **EXPENDITURE TRANSFER** — There is a possibility that a UA under financial pressure could pass services to parishes without fully matching funding. National evidence suggests precepts have sometimes increased significantly (69%+) following unitarisation, so this is worth being aware of.
- **ASSET TRANSFER PRESSURE** — The new UA may rationalise its assets. Parishes could be offered parks, play areas or buildings along with their running costs. It is worth thinking through the financial implications carefully, and being aware that the alternative may be that the asset is no longer maintained.
- **ASPIRATIONS VS FORMAL COMMITMENTS** — "Co-production", "community empowerment" and "parish voice" do not currently have a statutory basis. Experience from previous reorganisations suggests these can be difficult to maintain under financial pressure. It is worth seeking formal embedding of any engagement mechanisms that matter to your parish.
- **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** — Sutton-in-the-Isle has a made Neighbourhood Plan, which provides statutory weight in planning decisions and increases your CIL neighbourhood portion from 15% to 25%. However, a new Local Plan could undermine or supersede NP policies — active monitoring during transition would be well worthwhile.

What Sutton-In-The-Isle Can Do Now

1. **1. CONSIDER DOCUMENTING YOUR EXISTING COMMITMENTS.** It may be helpful to record all current S106 payments, grant agreements, SLAs and concurrent function funding, so you have a clear record to follow up with the new authority.
2. **2. THINK ABOUT WHAT IS STATUTORY VS DISCRETIONARY.** For benefits mentioned in LGR proposals, it is worth asking whether they are written into law, a constitution or a binding agreement. If not, they may be harder to rely on in the long term.
3. **3. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD DURING THE TRANSITION.** The period between now and vesting day is likely when parishes have the best opportunity to shape how the new authority will work with them.
4. **4. THINK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL IMPACT.** You might want to consider modelling how changes to grants, concurrent function funding and possible asset or service transfers could affect your precept.
5. **5. STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS.** Your East Cambridgeshire ward councillor(s) (Cllr Lorna Dupre, Cllr VACANCY) and your CCC division councillor(s) (Cllr Lorna Dupre) are your current advocates within the principal authorities. It would be helpful to make sure they understand Sutton-in-the-Isle's specific concerns and are briefed to raise them during transition planning. They are copied on this email for that reason.

How Capalc Can Help

- The full 47-point LGR Parish Impact Assessment
- Guidance on reviewing LGR option proposals from a parish perspective
- Template responses for parish council engagement
- Advice on Neighbourhood Plans, asset transfers and service devolution



Updates as the reorganisation process develops

Contact us at info@capalc.org.uk.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC)

This briefing draws on CAPALC's LGR Parish Impact Assessment (March 2026), the LGR option proposals (Options A, B, D and E), national evidence from previous reorganisations, and NALC/SLCC research.

Sent to: Sutton-in-the-Isle Parish Council (clerk and councillors), with copy to ward and division councillors.