

Chairman's Report – 5th May 2026

Good evening everyone, and welcome to Sutton's Annual Meeting of the Electorate.

I'd like to take you through some of the key activities and initiatives the Parish Council has been involved in over the past year, and also say a little about what lies ahead.

We currently have thirteen parish councillors, following several co-options since the last annual meeting. That still leaves two vacancies, and we would, of course, very much welcome a couple more volunteers.

If you're interested or know someone who might be please do get in touch with the Clerk. The time commitment isn't huge, and it's a great opportunity to make a real difference in the village.

We are now in the sixth year of Sutton Timebank, and it continues to go from strength to strength. I won't go into detail this evening, but it's genuinely impressive to see the range of activities taking place each month and the level of participation from residents. It remains a great example of community spirit in action.

One new initiative I'm particularly pleased to highlight is the village youth club, which started last month.

Before COVID, we funded the Connections Bus to visit the village, but that wasn't something we were able to reintroduce due to financial pressures. However, we've long recognised the need to provide something for young people locally.

After exploring a number of options earlier this year, we've now launched a new youth club, which runs every Tuesday evening from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Pavilion, for young people aged 10 to 16. It's still early days, but we're hopeful it will become a valuable and well-used part of village life.

Turning now to traffic and transport — an issue I know is important to many residents.

Our working party continues to make progress, although these things do inevitably take time. I'm pleased to say that our application for 20mph limits on The Row, Mepal Road, and the surrounding roads was successful. These

proposals were driven by requests from local residents, and we are now waiting for the detailed design work to be completed, which we expect to see this summer.

We have also continued our long-standing efforts to tackle the problems caused by HGVs rat-running through the village.

I'm pleased to report that we've secured significant funding for the first stage of a three-stage bid through the Local Highways Initiative. Our ultimate aim is to achieve a weight restriction along the B1381, from the junction with the A142 to Earith Bridge.

In the meantime, the County Council has asked us to explore a number of additional options. As part of that, we've been gathering evidence, including pollution and vibration monitoring, as well as detailed traffic surveys, to build a strong case for further action.

We are also working with local hauliers to establish voluntary agreements to avoid using the B1381 as a shortcut, and the County Council is preparing plans for freight advisory signage to help discourage through-traffic. These plans are expected in the summer.

In addition, the County Council will support us in developing proposals for further traffic calming measures along the B1381. The work to develop these options is funded, although further funding will be needed if we move to implementation.

We also now have a Library Access Working Party, which has recently started to meet. Its aim is to explore the creation of a volunteer-run community library. This is still at an early stage, but it's an exciting opportunity that we will continue to develop.

Our Sports and Recreation Working Party has also been busy over the past year.

Last year saw the installation of the Monkey Challenge climbing wall next to the MUGA on the playing fields, which has already proved popular. More recently, the pathway around the bowling green has been replaced, a significant improvement on the original path, which had been in place since the green was first constructed.

With Vistry now having started the second phase of their development to the north of the village, the working party is also beginning to look at plans for additional football pitches and the refurbishment of the MUGA. As part of the planning agreement, Vistry will be providing both new pitches and funding towards improving the existing facilities.

Looking further ahead, the Parish Council has also started to research requirements for a new burial ground. Land for this will be provided as part of the Vistry development once it is completed, and this work will ensure we are prepared for future needs in the village.

These are just some of the things the Parish Council has been working on over the past year.

We are always open to new ideas, and just as importantly, to new people who want to get involved and help support our community.

Sutton is a strong and active village, and that is down to the people who live here. Thank you all for your continued support.

Mark Inskip
Chairman
Sutton Parish Council

Annual Report 2026



CLLR LORNA DUPRE

CLLR MARK INSKIP

**District councillors for the Sutton ward
(including Sutton, Mepal, Witcham, and Wentworth)**

1 The council

- 1.1** The composition of the council has varied over the last twelve months, but is currently 14 Conservatives, 12 Liberal Democrats and two Independents. The Conservatives are in a group with one Independent, and the Liberal Democrats in a group with the other.

John Hill retired as Chief Executive in December 2025 after a quarter of a century in post, and was replaced by Emma Grima in an internal-only process. We argued for a better process, but this was rejected.

2 Full council

- 2.1** The budget in February 2026 once again saw a council tax freeze proposed by both groups on the council. We proposed an alternative budget which would have supported the arts, tourism and the environment, re-established an independent Citizens Advice presence in Ely, and implemented civil parking enforcement, but this was defeated.

- 2.2** The cost of the Conservatives' unpopular, unwanted crematorium at Mepal continues to balloon. Councillors were told this would be a £13M fixed price contract, but from an original estimate of £9M, the price is now £14M. With the construction only half complete, the council has used up all its contingency funding, and in February it came back for an additional £300,000. The decision to approve the extra contingency funding was made on the casting vote of the Chair of the Council.

The money for the scheme has come from developer Community Infrastructure Levy contributions

which were intended to improve community amenities, at a huge cost to towns and villages across East Cambridgeshire in lost opportunities.

The purpose of the scheme was to use profits to subsidise council tax. Not only does it seem highly unlikely to us that there will be any profits to speak of, but with the end of East Cambridgeshire as a council under Local Government Reorganisation it is unlikely that the Leader's council tax subsidy ambition will be relevant either.

The plan is for the crematorium to open in the summer.

- 2.3** Mark successfully proposed a motion to improve the council's response to empty homes. As a result the council has resolved to develop a new Empty Homes Strategy by July 2026, with ambitious and realistic targets to reduce long-term empty homes and return them to use; and a business case and options to implement it, including investigation into a revolving loans fund, expanded enforcement capacity, an Empty Homes Partnership and officer, and an online 'Report an Empty' portal to connect buyers and renovators.

A second motion from us proposed that the council should require its Trading Company to join the scheme which gives people moving into new build homes the right to take complaints to the New Homes Ombudsman. This was defeated.

We successfully proposed that the council should continue to press the Government to invest in upgrades to the rail network north of Ely.

3 Audit

- 3.1** The council's external audit report, received in January, was damning. The council's arrangements for supporting the audit were graded Ineffective for quality and completeness of the draft financial statements, delivery of working papers in accordance with agreed schedules, quality of working papers and supporting evidence, and volume and value of identified misstatements and disclosure amendments. No assurance could be given by the auditors for short-term debtors, short term creditors, grants received in advance, reserves, other income and expenditure, cash flow statement, collection fund, other disclosures, or leases.

The auditors made eight specific recommendations, including within Recommendation 1 that "the finance team must develop a strong understanding of Local Government accounting requirements". The auditors warned: "if we are not satisfied with the pace and substance of improvements in addressing our Recommendation 1 (Page 39) as part of the 2025/26 audit, we would be minded to issue Statutory Recommendations at that point, given the recurring inability to prepare robust financial statements and support the audit process".

Despite multiple significant issues in the council's draft statement of accounts for 2024/25, the Chair of the committee used his casting vote to ensure that sign-off of these accounts was delegated to himself, along with the council's director of finance, without further committee scrutiny.

Following this embarrassment, the council has appointed an interim Technical Accountant and a Principal Accountant.

4 Planning

- 4.1** The developers of the scheme behind Garden Close Sutton have now applied to vary their planning permission to remove all the affordable housing originally required for the site.

- 4.2** Witcham's Neighbourhood Plan received the support of ninety per cent of those who voted in a referendum in 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.

The Government no longer offers grants for making or reviewing a Neighbourhood Plan, but the council set aside a fund of £50,000 for parishes to bid for, on a first come first served basis until 31 March 2028 or until the fund is exhausted. A matching contribution is required.

- 4.3** We are continuing to engage with the developer, the county council's flood and water team, and affected residents over water management on and around the Phase 2 site of the Vistry development at the top of Mepal Road Sutton.

- 4.4** Data from the council's annual monitoring report states that 635 net house-building completions took place in the district in 2024/25, mostly in Ely, Soham and Littleport. The Sutton ward contributed six net completions to this total.

The council reported that it has a 6.1 year land supply, above the five year minimum requirement.

- 4.5** The Government has recently consulted on the growing issue of unadopted amenities on privately managed estates, with the aim of reducing reliance on private estate management and increasing adoption of amenities by public authorities. As this affects a growing number of new build areas in East Cambridgeshire, we persuaded the council that it should make a response, and encouraged individual residents to do so too.

The Government has also been consulting on major changes to the planning system, including reducing levels of community engagement on larger schemes and get them through the planning system faster.

5 Finance and assets

- 5.1** The council has been transferring assets to parish councils in advance of Local Government Reorganisation. This includes a package of assets including public toilets and a car park being transferred to Littleport Town Council for £1 each. City of Ely Council has been offered Oliver Cromwell House, The Maltings and Maltings Cottage, also for £1 each.
- 5.2** The council is using Community Infrastructure Levy funding for two grant funding schemes—one for local infrastructure such as community centres, village halls and sports centres, and the other for inclusive play and open spaces. A minimum of ten per cent match funding will be required from applicants.

The council also opened a Community Fund to applications in the final months of 2025. Community groups were encouraged to apply for grants of up to £1,000 to spend on new or existing projects designed to improve the quality of life for residents. The next funding window will be open from 11 May to 22 June 2026.

- 5.3** The council's Finance and Assets Committee unanimously agreed to grant a licence to Mepal Pantry for use of the allotment land next to 10 River Close Mepal to grow produce to directly support the local community the Pantry currently serves. (We were amused at the council's admission in the committee report on this item that it had been collecting rent from the previous tenant while apparently not being aware that it was the owner of the land.)

6 Operational services

- 6.1** As part of national changes in legislation, the council is currently delivering black wheeled bins and food caddies to households across East Cambridgeshire. The black bins will replace our black sacks, and will be collected fortnightly. We will also have a smaller food caddy for use in our kitchens, and a larger caddy for food waste which will be collected weekly. The 'go live' date for the new arrangements is 1 June.

From that date, soft plastics including bubble wrap, food packaging and carrier bags can also be put in with household recycling. Free garden waste collections will continue, but food waste should go in the food caddy, not our green bins. Residents who live in properties that cannot accommodate the bins will be

provided with purple bags for anything that cannot be recycled.

Some areas will have a new bin day from 1 June. Mepal—whose collection day will be Tuesday—is the only part of the Sutton ward that this will affect.

- 6.2** We strongly supported a proposal for a Public Spaces Protection Order to clamp down on anti-social driving across East Cambridgeshire, such as has been happening at the Elean Business Park for years. A consultation with the public showed huge support for the new Order, which was approved by the Operational Services Committee and which it is hoped will take effect from the summer.
- 6.3** The council has awarded GLL a five-year extension to its contract to manage The Hive leisure centre on the A10 near Ely. The contract will now end in 2035. 228 solar panels have been installed at The Hive, using £69,510 from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund.
- 6.4** The council is still refusing to join the rest of the country in taking responsibility for on-street parking enforcement. It is now five years since the Leader of the Council promised a unique system of police volunteers to enforce parking, but there is still nothing to show for it.
- 6.5** Mark took up issues relating to street sweeping in High Street Witcham. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a statutory duty to provide clean streets, footways and open spaces that are in public ownership. All towns and villages are divided up into

“zones” with the busiest being cleaned more regularly.

- 6.6** Mark attended the meeting of the EPR straw plant liaison group in October. The annual maintenance outage took place in July, and two apprentices had recently been taken on.

7 Local Government Reorganisation

- 7.1** The ruling group on the district council has proposed to the Government that East Cambridgeshire should be joined in a new authority with Huntingdonshire, Peterborough, and Fenland. We have strongly opposed this, on the grounds that our connections for work, study, health care, leisure, and retail are predominantly with Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, and that it would be wrong to deny East Cambridgeshire residents any influence over decisions affecting the places and amenities that play such a key part in most residents' lives.

The Government will make its decision in the summer.

8 Finally

- 8.1** We continue to offer in-person councillor surgeries every month, at Joy Bistro at 65 High Street Sutton, from 6:30 to 7:30PM on the first Monday of every month except for bank holiday Mondays. Our monthly councillor reports are at www.tinyurl.com/lornasreports

It is a privilege to serve the residents of our parishes, and we thank them, the parish councils, and their clerks, for the experience of the last year.

Annual Report 2026



CLLR LORNA DUPRE

County councillor for the Sutton division

(including Sutton, Mepal, Witcham, Wentworth,
Coveney, Wardy Hill, Way Head, Little Downham,
Pymoor, and Witchford)

Introduction

Local elections took place for all 61 seats on Cambridgeshire County Council on Thursday 1 May 2025. The table below shows the current composition of the Council compared to the election results in May 2021, and to this time last year.

	2021	2025	Now
Conservatives	28	10	10
Liberal Democrats	20	31	31
Labour	9	5	5
Independents	4	2	2
Reform UK	0	10	9
Non-aligned	0	0	1

Since the election, the Liberal Democrats and Independents have formed a Liberal Democrat and Independent Group.

The election for Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough also took place on Thursday 1 May 2025, with Paul Bristow (Conservative) elected.

1 The Council

1.1 The Liberal Democrat and Independent Group now runs the Council. Our vision is to create a healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire.

I am now Deputy Leader of the Council, and Vice Chair of the Strategy Resources and Performance Committee. I remain a member of the Highways and Transport Committee, and of the Constitution and Ethics Committee and working group.

I am a member of the council's Consents Working Group, reviewing the large-scale infrastructure projects on which the council is consulted but is not the decision-maker. These include major road, rail and energy projects. I am also a part of the Waste

Steering Group considering the council's arrangements for the disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste.

1.2 I am the nominated substitute for the Leader of the Council on the Board of the Combined Authority, which means I am no longer eligible to sit on any of the Combined Authority's thematic committees. However, I am now the County Council's representative to the Board of the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

1.3 The Council has considered a number of issues put forward by councillors for debate. These include opposing any plans to merge our local police force into a larger and more remote body; the need for support for people in mental health crisis or at suicide risk; GP services for growing communities; and the importance of flood prevention in the Fens.

2 Strategy Resources & Performance

2.1 The Council set its budget in February 2026, including record spending on roads, thousands of extra school places, and support for vulnerable residents.

The budget included an additional £20 million for highway maintenance, delivery of the council's climate change and environment strategy, and £11 million to upgrade household recycling centres at Milton and March.

£14.7 million of additional funding was allocated 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.

Provision of holiday meal vouchers will continue until the end of summer 2026 for those children most in need, despite the Government replacing the Household Support Fund which used to pay for this. The Government's replacement Crisis and Resilience Fund is less generous than its predecessor, and is intended to provide a wide range of anti-poverty measures in addition to feeding children in struggling families.

There will be 3,500 new primary school places, and £72 million over five years to increase secondary school places. There will also be continued funding for the Families First early intervention programme that helps keep more families together. And more than £1.2 million will be invested in libraries and archives over the next two years.

2.2 The council ran its third annual Quality of Life survey in 2025, which provides valuable insights into residents' perspectives and priorities. 5,500 residents (1,100 in each district) were directly polled for their views, and the survey was open in the summer for any other resident who wished to complete it.

2.3 Like almost every county and unitary council, the Council increased its portion of council tax by 4.99 per cent in total—two per cent for adult social care, and 2.99 per cent for general spending.

3 Adults and Health

3.1 The Adults and Health Committee has a significant role in ensuring that

health inequalities are reduced, and that people enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support suited to their needs.

One of the first decisions of the new 2025 Liberal Democrat administration was to split the committee into two committees—one for its public health, adult social care and procurement responsibilities, and the other dedicated to the council's role in scrutinising local NHS services.

3.2 The council's adult social care services were rated as Good by the Care Quality Commission in summer last year.

3.3 This has been a turbulent time for the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). ICBs are statutory NHS organisations in England responsible for planning and buying healthcare services for local populations. They replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups in 2022.

Last year the Government required enormous in-year and ongoing savings to be made by ICBs. This has resulted in mergers of many ICBs as a way of cutting jobs. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, instead of having its own ICB, is now part of NHS Central East, covering Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire.

3.4 Priors Field in Sutton is now well established under St Mary's GP practice. Primary care provision across Cambridgeshire remains very fragile however, with most residents relying on private dental provision, and many GP practices hanging on by a thread.

3.5 The new Health Scrutiny Committee has held a number of meetings where we have heard from various health providers and had the opportunity to ask searching questions. Subjects considered by the Committee have included dentistry, primary care and GP services, and services for children and young people with autism.

3.6 The future of the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge remains uncertain, after the NHS Trust withdrew over £800,000 of support. A private donation has enabled it to continue for a further year.

4 Assets and Procurement

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

4.2 The council's Shareholder Sub-Committee approved an updated business plan from the council's wholly-owned company This Land. The current council administration has worked extremely hard to stabilise the company, transforming it from the way it had been set up ten years ago under Conservative control. The updated business plan enables the company to repay interest, reduce the amounts owed to the council, and limit the council's exposure to risk from the company.

5 Children and Young People

5.1 Like most county councils, Cambridgeshire continues to experience huge financial pressures associated with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and with the costs of home to school transport.

The number of children in Cambridgeshire with an Education Health and Care Plan has grown by 71 per cent between 2020 and 2025. The council invested an additional £780,000 in the autumn to increase capacity to process these plans.

The Government will be delivering two new special schools in the county, in Gamlingay and March, with 270 new special school places.

5.2 Cambridgeshire County Council's services for care leavers have improved since 2024, according to an Ofsted visit in July 2025. They also listed four areas for further improvement.

5.3 In July I was delighted to be join Cllrs Jonny Edge and Anna Bradnam at the council's Children in Care Celebration and Awards at Inflationbounce in Wyton.

5.4 A new Community outreach service from the council aims to support and develop the skills of parents and children from birth to five years, and of those leading community groups for families with children from nought to five.

6 COSMIC

6.1 COSMIC (Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee) has continued to oversee support for people experiencing immediate financial hardship. An increasing number of families are struggling financially at the moment.

6.2 One urgent issue is the sudden spike in the price of domestic heating oil as a result of President Trump's war in Iran. The council has received

£708,000 from the Government which is ring-fenced to support households struggling with this. The money has been added to the council's Crisis & Resilience Fund, and applications (for up to £400 per household) are being administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. Eligibility for this fund is currently restricted to those on specific means-tested benefits. If the Government's grant were to be shared equally among every household in the county reliant on oil heating, each household would receive less than £27.50—the council is having to make difficult decisions about priorities.

- 6.3** The committee has procured an IT system which will enable more systematic and earlier identification of low income households which would benefit from support. South Cambridgeshire District Council has been using this system for a couple of years now, with remarkable results.
- 6.4** Work is under way to implement the recommendations of Cambridgeshire's Poverty Strategy Commission. These are grouped into six themes: income maximisation, digital inclusion, rural poverty, housing and homelessness, children and families, and mental health.
- 6.5** Adult learning services in Cambridgeshire were given a Good rating by Ofsted in spring 2025, with the behaviour and attitude of learners judged to be Outstanding.
- 6.6** I was pleased to attend a 'Civic and Church Gathering' hosted by St Mary's Church in Ely in September, bringing churches, civic and community leaders together to explore joint

working for the good and flourishing of the places we live and serve.

7 Environment

- 7.1** Water scarcity and water management is a key issue for Cambridgeshire. Water Resources East is responsible for producing a regional water resources plan for Eastern England, with a combination of infrastructure investment and demand management.

Meanwhile, the Fens2100+ project, which brings together a number of agencies to develop a long-term plan to manage future flood risk in the Fens, has published a suite of reports including a Case for Change, Partnership Action Plan, and summary baseline report.

The move of Anglian Water's waste water treatment plant from north-east Cambridge to Horningsea was thwarted after the Government removed the necessary funding.

- 7.2** Community watercourse grants are available from the council to support communities where the condition of local watercourses is increasing the risk of flooding. These can be used for clearance and maintenance, equipment hire, contractor support, or training and safety equipment.
- 7.3** Cambridgeshire County Council is calling on residents to play an active role in restoring local nature as part of the 'Nature Recovery - From the Ground Up' project—a new initiative supporting parishes and community groups to design their own Community Nature Recovery Plans. The first phase of the project runs from July 2025 to March 2027,

focusing on Cambridge and twenty parishes across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire. Other parishes are invited to use the project resources and mapping software, and to register interest for future phases of the project.

7.4 Cambridgeshire County Council has been ranked by Climate Emergency UK as one of the top performing councils in the country for the action it has taken towards Net Zero.

7.5 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-of lithium-ion batteries. Across the UK, over 1,200 waste-related fires were recorded last year—a 71 per cent rise since 2022.

I have been following up a number of issues with the Grunty Fen landfill site, operated by FCC Environment under a permit which lasts until the end of 2026. These include fires, littering, and the effect on the road of the numbers of heavy vehicles.

7.6 The Cambridgeshire Digital Inclusion Directory is a practical guide to help residents get online, access devices, and build essential digital skills. It features trusted local organisations offering free support with digital access, equipment and training. Printed copies are available at libraries and community hubs, or it can be downloaded.

8 Highways and Transport

8.1 The condition of our roads and pavements deteriorated rapidly over

the winter. Highways and Transport Committee chair Cllr Alex Beckett has written a very informative explainer article at notesfromalex.substack.com/p/why-are-the-roads-so-bad-right-now

8.2 The council continues to add more funding to its road maintenance budget, as the funding from Government via the Combined Authority is completely insufficient. Around 35,000 permits are being issued annually in Cambridgeshire for work on the highway, and in addition works are undertaken that do not require a permit.

Our peat soil roads are a major problem, taking four or five times as much money to repair as regular roads. St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire MP Ian Sollom asked a question about this in parliament.

In 2025/26 the council reconstructed a number of stretches of peat soil road, including part of Hundred Foot Bank and Straight Furlong in Pymoor. For 2026/27 the priority locally will be part of Hillrow Causeway between Earith Bridge and the approach to Haddenham. Earith Road Willingham (between Roseberry holiday park and the orchard) was resurfaced.

Mepal Bridge was closed for several weekends over the summer for maintenance; and the footpath from Gravel End to Downham Hythe was finally reopened after its bridge was replaced at last.

The road network is being reassessed in April and May this year, to produce an updated list of capital maintenance priorities for 2027/28.

8.3 The footway at Station Road Sutton has been resurfaced and widened. The junction at Witcham Toll will be widened this year to accommodate more waiting traffic on the A1421. A 50MPH speed limit is being implemented on the A1101 Bates Drove between the top of Black Bank Little Downham and the top of Hundred Foot Bank Pymoor, following a series of injury collisions, a serious motorcycle collision, and a motorcycle fatality.

8.4 I have continued to work with Witchford Parish Council, the District Council and the County Council on the proposed cycle link between the east end of the village and Lancaster Way business park. Highways engineers have completed the design ready for review and a safety audit.

8.5 I managed to get the serious overgrowth down the western side of Red Lion Lane Sutton cleared back in late February before the start of the nesting season.

8.6 There was yet another review of highways staffing and our new Highways Maintenance Officer is Tom Hutchins. Many thanks to Sutton Parish Council for hosting a meeting earlier this year for parish council chairs and clerks with a range of highways officers to discuss issues across the division.

A new highways Asset Management System, Aurora, went live in September, enabling better report handling, workflow handling, and performance oversight.

8.7 New LED street lights are being installed across the county at a rate of about 2,000 per month. Over

47,000 lights will see the new components fitted, with the aim of reducing the council's energy use by one-third.

8.8 Sutton was successful in its bid for new 20MPH zones on The Row and Mepal Road, and for the first two phases of a three-phase programme working towards a weight limit for the village. Witchford was successful in its bid for road warning signs and bollards, signs or posts to warn drivers of the existence of public paths and byways crossing the A142.

8.9 One of the unexpected parts of my role as Deputy Leader of the County Council is to receive a report every time there is a fatality on a Cambridgeshire road. There are far too many of these, particularly involving young motorcyclists.

8.10 The council is getting tough on utilities and developers who overstay their permits to work on the highway or fail to abide by the conditions of their permits. In 2024/25 the council issued fines totalling £483,000.

8.11 In summer I took a trip on the pilot autonomous bus service from Madingley Park and Ride to West Cambridge. Great to see this huge technological step forward.

8.11 More information about the council's highways work can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transparency

9 Combined Authority

9.1 Work is ongoing on options for bus franchising, with an update due in June. Meanwhile, thirty-five bus routes in Cambridgeshire and

Peterborough—including the T12 from Sutton to Longstanton Park and Ride, which opened in May after I had been campaigning for it for eight years!—are hanging by a thread as the Mayor seeks to cut half a million pounds from local bus services. The County Council had to contribute funding to keep the young people's Tiger Pass going until March 2027.

The former 125 bus from Little Downham to Ely has been replaced by the 10 service, which is more frequent, and extends further into the evening, but does not serve Tesco or the railway station. The Thursday bus from Wardy Hill and Coveney has been preserved by creating a weekly booking of the Tiger on Demand rural bus service; I am still trying to get it to serve Sutton for the GP practice, pharmacy and shop.

9.2 The Combined Authority produced a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cambridgeshire during the year. It is now working on projects including an employment strategy for young people not in education, employment or training; accreditation as a Local Visitor Economy Partnership; and a small trial to install channels in pavements to carry cables for on-street charging of electric vehicles.

9.3 The new Mayor says he wants to dual the A10 between Ely and the A14 at Milton. However, there is currently no funding for this, from either the Government or the Combined Authority, which would have to find fifteen per cent of the cost.

9.4 My council leadership colleagues successfully pressed the Combined Authority to fund the next steps in planning a safe crossing at the A10 /

A142 BP roundabout. It's still a long way off, however.

10. Council reorganisation

10.1 Far too much time this year has been taken up with the Government's plan to abolish district and county councils and replace them with all-purpose unitary authorities.

Four options for different ways of carving up our area have been submitted by local councils, and we expect to hear this summer which one the Government has chosen. The County Council submitted 'Option A' which would join East Cambridgeshire, Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire in one council, and Peterborough, Fenland and Huntingdonshire in another. I strongly support this option as it most closely matches the Government's criteria as well as how East Cambridgeshire residents live.

11 Finally

11.1 I continue to hold regular surgeries in Sutton, and attend Little Downham Book Café once a month, and coffee mornings in Coveney, Sutton and Witchford when I can. Meanwhile, residents can continue to contact me by email, Facebook, or phone.

11.2 My monthly county councillor reports are at www.tinyurl.com/lornasreports

11.3 My thanks to the clerks and parish councillors of the seven parishes in the Sutton division, and the many community organisations, whose hard work helps keep our communities together.

Time Bank update May 2026

Sutton Timebank turned 6 in March. We now have almost 100 members with 5045 hours exchanged.

Our weekly coffee mornings continues to be well attended, and we continue to offer lunch once a month.

Our digital champions offer drop-in sessions and have been able to offer digital support at other times for those that need extra support or support at home. One of our digital champions is now planning a weekly training session on how to use your gadget where different topics such as internet shopping, ask my GP, finding a local trades man, etc will be covered.

We had another fantastic Christmas lunch. 54 residents attended and enjoy a full Christmas lunch with pudding. 8 volunteers cooked off site and 10 volunteers helped at the event serving food.

In January we rebranded Games Lunch to Lunch and Laughs. This is the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11.30 -1pm at The Glebe. This is a chance to enjoy a friendly chat and lunch together. We have around 15-20 attend since the rebranding.

The Timebank continues to work closely with the PPG. The PPG team have been a massive support to the Timebank. PPG members volunteer at coffee mornings and support other events. Patients that have been referred to the PPG for social support are supported to attend timebank events.

Weekly chair-based strength and balance exercises classes continue to be a massive success with 18-20 attending. We hope to have another instructor trained up so some pressure can be taken off Eileen and Dai. From the support of Sutton Chairty these classes continue to be free.

We have recently started a 'Social Gardening' group that meets Mondays from 10-12 at the PPG kitchen garden. The aim to support the PPG at keeping the kitchen gardening running and to encourage residents to get involved with gardening and growing their own food. Plots are starting to be used by a few residents and vegetables have been planted.

The Timebank and Open spaces group have put on numerous litter picks this year. Timebank members can borrow litter picking equipment from the timebank and litter pick at their convenience. We have a couple of Duke of Edinburgh students who are weekly litter picking for their volunteering.

We held our 1st Repair café in October. We had 28 items brought in, 17 were fully fixed, 6 will be repairable and advice was given, sadly 5 weren't repairable. That equates to 36kg not going into landfill with 171kg estimated CO2e emission prevented. The aim is to have another repair café on later in the year.

This year timebank will continue to support the community with our social events and activities and exchanges.

Hello,

I'm Bruce King and I'm here tonight with Jan representing Sutton Bowls Club.

Sutton Bowls Club was founded 29 years ago in 1997 and the green is situated off the Brook behind the Brooklands Centre and the Pavilion.

We have an all-weather green that can be played on in all conditions and at any time of year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for carrying out some important H&S works to the surrounds of the green. This work delayed our preparation of the green, but I'm pleased to say that

we are now back using the green for our weekly roll ups.

As well as the regular roll up on a Tuesday morning from April to October, we also have a monthly target bowls competition on a Saturday afternoon and an in-house pairs league that runs throughout the Summer.

We played two friendly fixtures against other local teams last summer and we hope to repeat these fixtures this coming summer.

We will be giving youngsters of Sutton Scout Group an introduction to bowls over the coming weeks and we also hope to have our annual evening with members of Sutton WI.

We are always looking for new members and we can provide training for beginners, so if anyone is interested and wants to know more, please speak to Jan or me afterwards. Contact details can also be found in the Sutton Pepperpot magazine.

Thank you.

Meeting of the Electorate

Sutton Poor's Land Charity
(working title; The Sutton Charity)
No. 204546

On the 14th. of December 1870, the Charity was approved by the Charity Commission, having been in operation for many years prior to that date.

The Founders of the Charity had names like; Oates, Vipau, Warth, Broker, Ibberson, Haddock & Upsher. Many of the said names being historically local, with several such family names being commemorated in St Andrews graveyard. All were landed gentlemen, or gentleman farmers, who, between them, donated approximately one hundred acres of land, around the village of Sutton in the Isle, predominantly in Sutton Gault, to the south of Lawn Lane known as The Lawns and on the southern edge of The Row.

It is the rent from this land, (agricultural and allotments) which forms the main source of the Charity's income.

The Charity enjoyed a good year 2025/2026 in which more aid was granted than in any previously recorded year. As an example, from 2005 to the present day, grants totalling more than £107,000 have been made. The past year being the most fruitful in terms of grants being made.

The Charity holds healthy reserves and our land tenancies are at 100% occupation.

The Board of Trustees (now ten, reduced from fifteen by agreement with the Charities Commission) between them have a wide skill base which brings knowledge and experience to our work. Several Trustees are DBS checked so that we can hold face to face meeting with applicants, giving them confidence in our bona fides.

The Charity has formed strong links with village organisations such as Sutton Scouts, the PPG of Priors Field Surgery and Sutton Primary School. It is through these links, and mediums like The Pepperpot and Social Media that we strive to reach out the widest possible audience in an effort to raise awareness of who we are and what we can offer by way of help and relief. Our guiding principles in all cases are; to be in ***Need, Hardship or Distress.***

To apply for assistance, please contact our Clerk,
Barbara Fuller, 10 The Lanterns,
Bedwell Park
Witchford
Cambridgeshire
CB6 2FH

or email thesuttoncharity@gmail.com

Our drive, as always, is to spread the word to the people of Sutton, or people living nearby but outside of Sutton who have strong links to the village, that we exist solely to help those who find themselves in need of assistance. That help may take the form of debt relief, be it energy bills, household white goods repair or replacement etc, or assistance with travel costs, educational requirements etc. The Charity will always do its best to help and may possibly signpost applicants to additional sources of assistance.

Brett Collard
Chair, The Sutton Charity

Sutton Parish Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 May 2026 19:23
To: Sutton Parish Council
Subject: 1st Brownies Report

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]

As requested here is our report.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

Brownies is part of the Girlguiding Association for girls aged from 7 to 10 years.

The Brownie Programme has Six Themes: Know Myself
Express Myself
Be Well
Have Adventure
Take Action
Skills for my Future

To complete each Theme they need to complete 180 mins of Unit Meeting Activities, examples, of which are on display.

Achieve at least one Skills Builders badge which has 4 elements.

The final element is to complete at least one interest badge of their choice and as much as possible in their own time but we do try to fit in a badge work evening into the meetings.

Started the year with 2 Brownies.

Summer Term:

We continued with the remainder of activities to complete Express Myself - Odd socks puppets, little play and boats with different sails mention last year.

The Theme was 'Express Myself' the unit meetings we covered were **Unit Meeting Activities** Colour creation, Tape to Create, Card making. **Skills Builder** - Edible architecture using fruits & vegetable to construct a tower starting with a foundation , I have an idea - to be an inventor

Switzerland Challenge Badge - we made a paper Edelweiss, Muesli ,a cow bell out of a tin can - which was made quite an authentic sound, a small cross stitch of the Girl Guide World Centre ' Our Chalet' which is in Adelboden, Switzerland, a Swiss Flag using Pony Beads and learnt the 'Our chalet' song.

We ended the summer term with an evening of the repeat of the girls' favourite activities Guiding in a bubble, decorating biscuits and a Chocolate Fountain. We also had a visit from a potential new Brownie.

We contributed to the flower festival in St Andrew's Church.

Autumn Term: I am pleased to say the our visitor of last term joined us up to 3!

This terms theme was Know Myself Skills Builder - Game over, The plan, All for one, Listen Look Move, Unit Meeting - How many hats, Stones of Remembrance.

Made Halloween witches. Cards, Lego, string

We attended the Remembrance Day Service.

We had another New Brownie join us now 4!

We contributed a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival The girls made several ornaments with pipe cleaners such as `angels, snowflakes, Christmas trees, wreath,

During this term one of our Brownies was awarded a Bronze Award, this is the initial badge of three, for completing 2 Themes. She is now working towards her Silver Award where she will need to have completed 4 themes. The Gold is the highest award a Brownie can earn which is when all 6 Themes have been completed together with 3 extra clauses including planning and running a meeting, remaking her promise and to visit a Guide unit.

Spring Term: We had another new Brownie join us at the beginning of term now 5!

Theme Skills for my Future - Milk masterpiece, Slime time, Magic mixture, Frogs in a pond, Excuses,

Another 2 new Brownies joined us 7!

We have made a Small Valentine bear with pipe cleaners, Mothers Day cards and gift of flowers.

Discovered about a Vortex and made a fun game with paper cups and a balloon.

Decorated Easter Hats and made chocolate nests.

I have been contacted by 2 more girls to join us so hopefully next week we will have 9 Brownies!!



Seeger Health
Qigong & Tai
Chi

2026 Update



Class Progress/Update

- Demand for classes has grown resulting in the provision of additional classes in Chatteris and Little Thetford.
- Sutton Pavilion regular attendance has grown steadily - also attracting students from Witchford, Mepal, Ely etc.
- Hall capacity is comfortably 10 people for Tai Chi which is currently achieved most weeks.

Environmental

- Towards the end of 2025 and early 2026 - issues with local male youths, abuse and vandalism.
 - Broken and boarded-up windows.
 - Since the installation of security CCTV cameras - peace restored.
 - Next steps regarding refurbishment? Restoration of original windows or bricked up playing field side of hall?
 - Any scope to influence the decor?
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