

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2025

CREMATORIUM AT MEPAL

East Cambs District Council is determined to press ahead with the construction of its unneeded £13M crematorium. The indicative timeline is as follows.

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|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2025 | Work starts on site |
| August 2025 | First major earthworks finish on site |
| Autumn | Work starts on foundations and main buildings |
| December 2025 | Phase 1 of landscaping complete, including boardwalk |
| February 2026 | Work in the internal building |
| March 2026 | Main buildings visible on site |
| April 2026 | Internal fit out of chapel |
| May 2026 | Work finishes on flower court and memorial garden |
| July 2026 | Project finishes |
| Summer 2026 | Crematorium opens |

GARDEN CLOSE SUTTON VARIATION OF APPLICATION

The applicants have submitted an application to vary the approved plans for the scheme at Garden Close. We have requested a summary of the changes from the Planning Department, and will share this with residents as soon as it arrives.

Meanwhile we were contacted by a resident of Garden Close about possible ash dieback disease on the site. We queried this with the district council's Trees Officer who has responded: "I have not been made aware of there being any trees with Ash dieback in that area. I would caution that there has been a lot of defoliation this year caused by Pigeons and Ash sawfly which can look similar to ash dieback, also the extended dry period has resulted in trees shedding leaves to conserve water also thinning the crown."

DEVELOPMENT AT MILL FIELD SUTTON

We have received comments about parking at the top of Mill Field during construction works. The construction environment management plan (CEMP) for the development of nine houses at the top of Mill Field says that "Site operators and visitors will park in safe designated site parking or on the disused stub end of Mepal Road subject to control of the banksman."

Unfortunately however these works are taking place at the same time as the closure of the 'stub end' for works related to Phase 2 of the Vistry development

on the other side of the road, meaning those working on the houses cannot park as required, and works vehicles for both projects are parking all over the place.

ECDC's planning enforcement officer has said "I have looked at the CEMP for the Vistry development and there is a requirement to park on site but this is subject to the access being created to enter the site. As the current works are related to creating that access, I do not consider any parking off site to currently be in breach of that CEMP." Lorna is raising the matter with highways and the police.

LAMP POSTS AT ST ANDREW'S CLOSE SUTTON

Two street lights in St Andrew's Close appear to have no known owner. Lorna has asked the district council to investigate and advise who may be responsible.

MEPAL OLD AIRFIELD

We have been asked about any plans for the Mepal old airfield on the Mepal side of the A142 north of the Elean Business Park, and have been told that there are no live planning applications for this site.

COUNTRY PARK AND JUBILEE GARDENS

Ely Country Park and Jubilee Gardens have both received the prestigious Green Flag award—the tenth year for Ely Country Park, and the twenty-first year for Jubilee Gardens.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday 3 September: Planning Committee
 - Wednesday 10 September: Licensing Committee
 - Thursday 18 September: Full Council
 - Thursday 25 September: Finance & Assets Committee
 - Monday 29 September: Operational Services Committee
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MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

We will not be holding an August surgery, as our host venue will be closed for a summer break. We will be at Joy Bistro, 65 High Street, Sutton on Monday 1 September and Monday 6 October at 6:30-7:30PM. Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email, Facebook, or phone.

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