

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2026

OUT OF HOURS WORKING AT MEPAL ROAD BUILDING SITE

We have received complaints that works are taking place at the building site at the top of Mepal Road outside of the agreed hours, and are following these up with the Planning Enforcement team at East Cambridgeshire District Council.

WASTE COLLECTION COMPLAINTS

We have continued to receive complaints about the new food caddies. We have received a response from the Waste Operations Manager at ECSS, who says:

“Thank you for raising these concerns regarding the recent food waste collection service. We understand residents’ frustrations about reports of food caddies being thrown back after emptying and concerns about potential damage to containers. We have also noted comments regarding food waste being emptied into garden waste bins.

Some of the service bins being used have been swapped from the original red bins to larger bins as the amount of food waste being collected is considerably more than we anticipated. These bins are green lidded garden bins which has caused confusion to our residents. We have not been mixing food waste with garden waste. The food waste vehicles are a lot smaller than the regular waste collection vehicles and are only designed to collect food waste.

To address these issues

- Refresher guidance is being issued to collection staff on expected standards of service, including handling of resident’s containers and returning bins appropriately after emptying.
- Supervisors are undertaking additional spot checks and monitoring collection crews to ensure bins and caddies are handled correctly and returned safely.
- The “service bins” being used will be painted a different colour to avoid confusion.

We appreciate residents taking the time to report these concerns and provide feedback. Ongoing monitoring will continue, and any further incidents should be reported with details of the location, date, and time to help us investigate specific collection issues.”

LONG TERM EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY

Following a motion proposed by Mark, the council agreed to develop a new strategy to address long term empty homes in the district. Adam Cliff from the Empty Homes Network was engaged to develop the strategy, and also to review and progress the council's caseload of long term empty homes.

The council's Operational Services Committee has agreed the resulting programme of work, and plans to review progress in March 2027 after the first nine months of implementation.

REGISTER OF BUILDINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Thanks to a successful county-wide bid for Government funding, the Cambridgeshire Local Heritage List Project has surveyed the 35 parishes in East Cambridgeshire to expand the Register of Buildings of Local Interest of 89 sites adopted in 2017.

678 local list entries have now been adopted, with thirty-nine candidates rejected and six removed. Fourteen sites identified by the project so far have been accepted by Historic England for inclusion in the National Heritage List.

The forthcoming National Planning Policy Framework will make the provision of local lists a mandatory requirement.

The list includes

- 24 properties in Sutton (including Lorna's!)
- Nine in Mepal
- Five in Witcham
- Two in Wentworth

The full list can be found at <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/cambridgeshire/>

CLIMATE AND NATURE MONITORING REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

The council's Finance & Assets Committee has approved its Climate and Nature Action Plan and Monitoring Report 2026, along with its 'Climate and Nature Top 20 Actions for 2026/27'. These actions relate to

1. Beechcroft Open Space, Brinkley
2. Carter's Pit, Burwell
3. Celandine View Open Space, Soham
4. Ely Milking Common
5. Fisherman's Bank, Littleport
6. Kings Avenue, Ely

7. Lime Kilns, Isleham
 8. Heaton Drive nature rich area
 9. Non-Domestic Energy Assessor
 10. Energy price cap advice
 11. Net Zero Villages appraisal and extension
 12. Plug-in solar panels
 13. 'Lake View Bereavement Centre' (crematorium at Mepal)
 14. Maximising recycling rate
 15. Public convenience solar panels
 16. Residents energy retrofit engagement
 17. Risk and Adaptation Plan
 18. Supporting local community groups
 19. Water quality
 20. Local network of reservoirs
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INCLUSIVE PLAY

Following a motion seconded by Lorna at a council meeting, the council agreed to conduct an inclusive play audit. This is now complete, and its findings will be included in a strategy to be discussed at the council's Finance & Assets Committee meeting in September.

£287,393.03 is available for parish councils to apply for as match funding for inclusive play and open spaces.

BUSINESS GRANT SCHEME

The council's Business Grant Scheme reopens on Monday 6 July, with £18,980 available for SMEs with turnover under £250,000 to invest in small-scale capital equipment such as machinery, tools and IT hardware with the aim of improving business efficiency and enabling business growth.

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

AWAITING CONSIDERATION OR DECISION

Applications in the Sutton ward awaiting consideration or determination include

Mepal

- **Three Pickerels, Mepal:** single storey function room within garden area to replace temporary marquee (25/01303/FUL)
- **3 School Lane, Mepal:** detached 1.5 storey self-build property (26/003919/FUL)
- **Arthur Rickwood, Chatteris Road, Mepal:** extension to warehouse, repositioning of septic tank, associated works and landscaping (26/00481/FUL)

Sutton

- **Meadlands Farm, Sutton Gault:** replacement dwelling (25/01258/FUL)
- **17 The America:** ground mounted solar panel installation (26/00668/FUL)
- **Units 5 And 6 Elean Business Park:** change of use from storage and distribution to general industrial use (26/00642/FUM)
- **90 Bellairs:** first floor extension and single storey extension (26/00627/FUL)

DECIDED

Applications in the Sutton ward which have recently been decided include

- **17 Bridge Road, Mepal:** conservation, repair and partial demolition of redundant agricultural storage structures and elements of new build to create leisure and accommodation facility (25/00018/FUL) **PERMITTED**
- **Anson Packaging, Elean Business Park:** to retain portacabins (26/00363/FUL) **PERMITTED**
- **26 Chestnut Way, Mepal:** detached single-storey brick outbuilding for domestic storage (26/00461/CLP) **PERMITTED**

JULY MEETINGS

- Wednesday 1 July: Planning Committee **CANCELLED**
- Wednesday 8 July: Licensing Committee **CANCELLED**
- Tuesday 14 July: Audit Committee
- Thursday 16 July: Full Council
- Wednesday 22 July: Licensing (Statutory) Sub Committee

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

We will be at Joy Bistro, 65 High Street, Sutton on Monday 27 July at 6:30-7:30PM. There will be no Meet Your Councillor event in August. 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)