

Cambridgeshire County Council – Papworth and Swavesey Division

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caxton and Papworth Ward

County and District Councillors' Monthly Report – June 2026

## News from the District Council

### Local Elections – Results

Elections took place on 7th May for all wards of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The results for Caxton and Papworth ward were as follows

<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	Sandford, Peter David	1011
<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	Poulton, Chris	989
<b>Reform UK</b>	Barclay, Charles	506
<b>Reform UK</b>	Pickford, James Earl	470
<b>Conservative Party</b>	Smith, Mandy	429
<b>Conservative Party</b>	Edwards, Leslie Charles	402
<b>Green Party</b>	Turner, Jane	270
<b>Green Party</b>	Tagl	193
<b>Labour Party</b>	Perkins, Andy	119

Peter will now serve a second term as one of your District Councillors, while Chris will add a District Councillor role to his current County Councillor role. In practice, you should be able to contact either of us about an issue and we will ensure the relevant council takes action.

The overall turnout was 46.83%, which is an improvement on 2022 when under 40% of eligible electors voted.

Across the district, the Liberal Democrats took 43 of the 45 seats, with the remaining two (Mordens and Whittlesford) being won by Conservatives. Given this majority, we don't expect major changes to South Cambs DC's policies and operational activities. If changes do transpire, we will as always update residents in our monthly newsletter.

At this point, the expectation is that the elected councillors will serve a two year term, after which South Cambs DC will be merged into a larger Unitary authority under the government's Local Government Reorganisation plans. The government expects to accept one of the reorganisation proposals in late July and all details are tentative at the moment.

There is currently no clarity on the timing of parish council elections. Up to now, parish council elections take place every four years if required, on the same day as District Council elections. However the first Unitary authority elections are planned for 2027 and it is not clear if the government intends to align Unitary and parish elections. It is possible current parish councils may serve a six year term.

## **Development Corporation**

On the 3rd of June, the National Government announced a new Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge, (a DevCo). See link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/greater-cambridge-gets-regeneration-body-to-accelerate-growth>

Please see the Government's response to the consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge/outcome/greater-cambridge-development-corporation-analysis-of-consultation-responses-and-next-steps>

Further communications about this will follow, however, it is important to note that this proposal represents a major shift in planning for our area, which will last for a generation. Councillors are receiving further briefings and we will update you when details are available.

## **High Court Emergency Injunction**

Over the May Bank Holiday weekend, South Cambs DC were made aware of significant works being undertaken at Moor Drove in Histon, to build a large traveller site in the green belt. Stephen Kelly, Director of Planning, worked the whole of Sunday with support from external legal advisors to submit an application for an emergency injunction to stop the works.

The judge sat on Sunday evening and granted the injunction, and the council subsequently worked with the police to serve the notice, and ensure that we have drone footage of the site at the point when it was served.

Normally action to remove unauthorised traveller encampments is the responsibility of the landowner. However, in this case, there was a flagrant breach of planning regulations and the council was able to take enforcement action.

## **East West Rail (EWR) consultation**

The EWR consultation in advance of the group submitting its Development Consent Order (DCO) closes soon but there is still time to respond online. The main items to note are:

- Further details have been released relating to the design and location of the Knapwell station. This has been moved 700m to the west of the previous site.
- New shared-use paths as part of the A428 improvements will help connect Cambourne residents to the new station.
- They have obtained ground data, which has allowed them to mitigate the impacts of some of the development to the local area. For example, relocating proposed stockpile areas to avoid a large Romano-British settlement that has been identified by archaeologists.
- Passing loops will be provided to allow faster trains to bypass slower ones.
- There is no change to the proposed route for EWR between Bedford & Cambridge - the Southern route is to be taken forward as per previous consultations
- The intersection at Highfields Caldecote & Bourn Airfield will now be constructed as a 1.4km tunnel section rather than using a cut and cover technique. This will

aim to minimise the land take-back required and the disruption caused by enabling works, likely at an increased cost to the overall project. This would also reduce the impact on the environment importantly.

- An additional train station is being provided (East Cambridge), alongside an extra train servicing depot at Fulbourn.
- A multistorey car park is planned for the train station.
- Estimated journey time to Cambridge from Cambourne will be 15 minutes.
- They are aiming to provide at least 4 trains an hour in each direction.

## **Zero Carbon Communities grant**

Community groups across South Cambridgeshire can now apply for funding to support projects that cut carbon emissions, boost nature recovery and bring people together, as the District Council's Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme officially opens. The Council committed £152,000 to the scheme this year, with the maximum grant available per project increased to £19,500. Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to seek match funding from other sources, such as parish or town councils, to help projects go further and deliver longer lasting benefits.

Since launching in 2019, the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme has supported 82 projects across South Cambridgeshire, awarding more than £855,000. Funded initiatives have included energy efficiency improvements to community buildings, renewable energy generation, cycling infrastructure and events, food waste reduction schemes, and community growing and gardening projects.

This year's scheme has been updated to reflect feedback from communities and the Council's Climate and Nature Strategy. Eligibility has been widened to include projects on school sites and applications from parent and teacher associations, where there is a clear benefit to the wider community. Sports and recreational groups, such as bowls clubs, are also eligible if their projects support community wellbeing, mental health or stronger local connections.

Of the £152,000 available, half is set aside for projects that directly reduce carbon emissions or lock up carbon, with the remaining half allocated to community engagement and nature based projects. The application window is now open and closes on Friday 24 July 2026. Groups considering applying can also access guidance and support from the Council to help shape strong bids by emailing [zcc@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:zcc@scambs.gov.uk) with specific questions.

The Zero Carbon Communities grant is funded through the Council's Renewables Reserve, which is made up of business rates collected from commercial renewable energy projects, such as solar farms, located within South Cambridgeshire. Read more about the District Council's Zero Carbon Communities grant and watch videos of case studies from previous beneficiaries at [www.scambs.gov.uk/zero-carbon-communities-grant](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/zero-carbon-communities-grant).

## **Free Webinar - The Hedge & the Hog: Helping Wildlife One Verge at a Time - Wednesday 17 June, 7-8pm**

Learn about the knock-on effects of pesticide and herbicide use and how verge management impacts local wildlife, and what alternative things you can do to help wildlife thrive. HI Hedgehog Champions and Green Spaces will share their experience and practical tips on how to implement changes in your neighbourhood – meet Eric, and other hedgehogs that have been released back into the wild.

This free workshop is open to everyone who is interested in making a better home for wildlife.

Reserve your space here: [Hedgehogs and Verges Webinar – Fill in form](#)

## **Cambridge Nature Festival 2026 has started!**

Check out all the events going on in Cambridgeshire to celebrate nature on our doorstep! There is something for everyone.

See what's going on where, with the event map: <https://canva.link/gj5n7un664ooptd>  
or see the full listing here: <https://cambridgenaturenetwork.org/events/>

## **Digital Hubs funding – applications now open from Connecting Cambridgeshire**

Community spaces across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can now apply for funding to become Digital Hubs, helping residents access WiFi, digital devices and local skills support.

Grants of up to £4,200 are available, with applications closing on 5 June 2026.

Please share with partners, community groups or networks who may be eligible.  
More information on [Connecting Cambridgeshire's website](#).

## **Webinar - Involving Young People: Exploring the possibilities for Parish Councils**

**Tuesday 14 July 12pm to 1pm OR Thursday 10 September 7pm to 8pm**

Parish councillors, clerks and community members are invited to join online sessions exploring how local councils can meaningfully engage young people in decision-making and community life.

This session is designed for any parish council interested in strengthening youth participation, establishing or developing a youth council, and/or understanding the support available locally.

What will be covered in this session:

- Why youth voice matters. An overview of the benefits of involving young people in local democracy, community planning, and parish-level initiatives.

- How to facilitate a Youth Council. Practical guidance on setting up, running, and sustaining a youth council, including models that work well in Cambridgeshire communities.
- Training and support available. A summary of the training, resources, and ongoing support offered by Cambridgeshire County Council to help parish councils build confidence and capacity in youth engagement.
- Open Q&A Space to ask questions, share experiences, and explore what might work best for your parish.

This session is suitable for councils at any stage, from early curiosity to those already working with young people and looking to strengthen their approach.

[Book your place:](#)

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=ZLMn4x4EUUyC8skGp4-cyUTdzbrgmjhPnBagiGaEVrRUOEVNVPBR0hIQVpYOUFNSU1VUFA0Tk5MUy4u&route=shorturl>

If you have any questions about the session, please contact [Ella.Rolfe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ella.Rolfe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# News from the County Council

## Strategy Resources & Performance

### Quality of Life survey

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched its fourth annual Quality of Life survey, inviting residents to share their views on life in Cambridgeshire and the issues that matter most to them and their communities.

The survey findings provide valuable insight to support business planning, policy development, and decision-making, as well as helping to understand how changes to public services are affecting people's lives. This insight is used to help shape the council's Business Plan and Budget, tracking progress against the council's Strategic Framework ambitions over time.

The online and telephone survey will capture the views of around 5,500 residents and is being delivered in partnership with Cambridge Ahead and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

The twenty-minute survey is being carried out by independent market research company Thinks Insight, which aims to speak to a representative sample of approximately 1,100 residents aged 18 and over in each of Cambridgeshire's five district areas, ensuring a broad and balanced range of perspectives. Residents will not be asked for personal or financial information.

Residents will be asked about a range of topics, including life and community, transport, health and wellbeing, children and young people, and perceptions of the council and its services.

Previous survey findings have shown that many residents feel happy, safe and have a strong sense of belonging, with Cambridgeshire widely seen as a good place to raise children. They have also highlighted areas where residents would like to see improvement, such as road and pavement maintenance, the cost of living, and mental health and loneliness.

Alongside the random sample, all residents are encouraged to take part in the survey which will remain open into the summer and close on 5 August 2026. Responses will then be analysed and shared with councillors and the public in the autumn.

**[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey)**

## Adults & Health

### 'Virtual smart flat' goes live

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched a 'virtual smart flat' which uses Extended Reality (XR) to showcase ways in which new and existing technology can be used to help prevent, delay and reduce the need for formal community or acute care.

The equipment available ranges from simple pill reminders to sophisticated detectors, sensors, smart devices and trackers.

People will be able to access the virtual smart flat from home, on a desktop computer or tablet, from Wednesday 13 May. The Council also has a 'Smart Flat' in Huntingdon where you can try out

the available equipment and technology.

Find out more about the council's TEC offering including a video:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/new-virtual-smart-flat-to-help-people-stay-independent-for-longer>

### **Personal independence payments (PIP) review**

On 19 March, the government launched the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payments for people with a disability or long-term health condition. The Review has now closed.

The Review sought feedback from the public on their experiences and knowledge of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), particularly from those with lived or learned experience of PIP, including disabled people, the organisations that represent them, carers, clinicians, experts, MPs, and other elected officials in the UK. The Review aims to report to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in autumn 2026 and to reporting its outcomes to Parliament.

## **Children & Young People**

### **Water safety campaign**

As warmer weather approaches, a new campaign Be Water Smart has been launched by Cambridgeshire County Council to support families to enjoy water safely this summer.

Designed to equip parents with important lifesaving knowledge, Be Water Smart aims to raise awareness of the potential risks of swimming in open water, like lakes and rivers, and the simple, proactive steps parents can take to ensure children have the right skills and knowledge they need to stay safe around water.

The campaign will include encouraging parents to familiarise themselves with the Water Safety Code (stop and think, stay together, float and call 999 in the UK or 112 if abroad) and how to teach this to children to ensure they know what to do if they find themselves in the water unexpectedly.

The council's Be Water Smart campaign will focus on:

- How families can stay safe together in and around water.
- What to do if you or your child gets into difficulties in the water or comes across someone else who is in trouble.
- Raising awareness of the risks associated with swimming in open water, such as cold water shock and hidden dangers under the water.
- Helpful tips for enjoying the water safely this summer, including places where families can have fun in the water in a safe and controlled environment.
- Water safety activities and resources families can complete together.

At least a dozen children across the country have died in water during the recent hot weather spell, so this campaign could not be more timely.

### **Unclaimed child trust funds**

The government is contacting thousands of 21-year-olds about forgotten Child Trust Funds in a bid to reunite account holders with their accounts, worth £2,200 on average.

Child Trust Funds were introduced in 2005, to be accessed by children once they reached the age of 18. The scheme ran for children born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011.

The government is now undertaking an awareness campaign urging young people to locate their Child Trust Funds through the free Find My Child Trust Fund service on GOV.UK.

**[www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds/find-a-child-trust-fund](http://www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds/find-a-child-trust-fund)**

### **Fostering**

Our local Fostering Ambassador Anne ran a Fostering information evening at the Lighthouse in Ely last month. Many Cambridgeshire children need families to look after them on a short-term or long-term basis. The more local foster carers there are, the more children in our care can stay connected to their schools, friends and communities - rather than being uprooted somewhere unfamiliar.

If this is something that might work for you, find out more at 0800 052 0078, email [fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or visit the website

**<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption>**

## **Highways & Transport**

### **New cycle training contract**

The Highways and Transport Committee has agreed to seek a new contract to deliver cycle training for children across the county. This will ensure that thousands of children in Cambridgeshire will continue to benefit from high-quality cycling skills and road safety education, through to 2029.

The decision allows the Council to appoint a training provider to deliver the Bikeability programme, for an initial term ending in March 2029, with options for extensions. The programme will be funded through a mixture of funding options including a confirmed three-year grant from the Bikeability Trust on behalf of Active Travel England.

### **Cambridge South station**

Passengers will soon be able to take trains from the new Cambridge South station. Services will begin calling at Cambridge South on Sunday 28 June before the station's official opening ceremony takes place the following day.

Cambridge South is expected to welcome 1.8 million passengers annually. The station will benefit from up to nine trains an hour to the centre of Cambridge as well as a direct link to the city's Biomedical Campus. Passengers will also be able to take trains to London, Birmingham, Stansted Airport and international rail services via St Pancras, with up to twenty services calling at Cambridge South in peak hours.

### **Damage to traffic light detector units**

Around 200 traffic light detector units were vandalised across Cambridgeshire since the early May bank holiday weekend, mostly in Cambridge.

The detectors, which are mounted on traffic signal poles, were deliberately vandalised through the cutting of their cables. Each incident typically cost around £250 to repair. In some cases, the

damage was more serious, with whole units needing to be replaced costing anywhere between £250 and £1,500.

The equipment plays a vital role in keeping traffic moving safely and efficiently. Detectors identify vehicles and pedestrians waiting at junctions, allowing traffic lights to respond to real-time demand.

When the technology is damaged, traffic lights revert to a fixed-time setting, leading to increased congestion and delays for everyone, as well as potential safety issues.

## **Environment & Green Investment**

### **Recycling strategy and design guide endorsed**

The Council has agreed to endorse the new Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) Waste Partnership Interim Resources and Waste Strategy 2025-2031 along with the new Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) Waste Management Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document.

### **Woodland creation invitation**

Cambridgeshire County Council is inviting communities, landowners and farmers to come forward if they have land suitable for new woodland, hedgerow creation, and nature recovery, as part of a campaign to rebuild the county's depleted tree cover.

Cambridgeshire is one of the most tree-depleted counties in England, with intensive agriculture and the loss of traditional hedgerows leaving habitats fragmented and wildlife increasingly isolated.

The Woodland Creation project, led by Cambridgeshire County Council and funded by the Forestry Commission, aims to reverse this trend by increasing tree and woodland canopy cover and expanding hedgerows across the county, to open up potential opportunities, such as agroforestry.

The Council is now inviting expressions of interest from community and parish groups, landowners and farmers with land of 0.5 hectares or more that may be suitable for tree planting, woodland creation, hedgerow improvement or wider nature recovery initiatives. Priority will be given to:

- Lower-grade agricultural land
- Sites next to existing habitats such as woodland, wetlands or meadows
- Land that can help connect ecological networks across Cambridgeshire.

Those interested are encouraged to complete the secure online form by 30 June 2026 for the 2026/27 planting season. Further information about the offers to support the delivery of these woodlands will be available over the next couple of months.

**<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/council-urges-communities-to-help-grow-woodlands-in-cambridgeshire>**

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05 June 2026

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