

Cambridgeshire County Council – Papworth and Swavesey Division

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caxton and Papworth Ward

County and District Councillors' Monthly Report – July 2026

News from the District Council

Update on the Food Waste Collection

Having confidently told everyone that the separate food waste collection would begin in late spring... there is a delay! The Waste Service hasn't been able to recruit sufficient drivers and operators to staff all areas. The latest plan is we will receive our extra bin and caddy in August, for collections to begin soon after.

The Combined Authority is consulting on bus services

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (the Mayor's office) has launched a public engagement on proposed changes to local bus services, and would be grateful for your comments and those of your residents.

The engagement launched on Tuesday 16th June and will run until 5pm on 28th July - <https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-network-review-engagement/>

The proposals have been developed following a review of bus services currently funded by the Combined Authority. At this stage, no decisions have been made. They want to hear directly from the people who use these services, or may rely on them in future, so that feedback can help inform any final decisions.

Proposals affecting our villages can be found in the "Huntingdonshire" document (although we are still in South Cambridgeshire!). In summary, the current 5A, 8, (already cancelled) 67 and 68 services would be withdrawn and replaced by:

- Huntingdonshire Revised Service A: St Ives – Bar Hill – Papworth Everard – St Neots
- Huntingdonshire Revised Service B: St Ives – Bar Hill – Cambridge

The aim is to create a simpler network with better connections, longer operating hours and more useful journey opportunities.

The new Huntingdonshire Revised Service A will provide the main link between:

- Bar Hill
- Boxworth
- Elsworth
- Papworth Everard
- St Neots

This means:

- Boxworth and Elsworth gain a more useful and more regular service
- Direct journeys to St Neots railway station
- Timetables will be designed to connect with trains towards London
- Longer operating hours make commuting and evening travel easier

- Connections available at Bar Hill for: Cambridge-bound service 5, Longstanton Park and Ride, the Cambridge – St Ives Busway

Changes for Hilton, Knapwell and Conington: These villages will no longer be served by the replacement route. But they will still have Dews Coaches service 9, Tiger on Demand (bookable Demand Responsive Transport Service). Demand from these villages is currently very low.

Faster journeys for some passengers: By removing the loop through Hilton, Knapwell and Conington, journeys from Elsworth and Papworth Everard towards Bar Hill, Longstanton, and Cambridge connections will be around 15 minutes faster.

School journeys will be protected: All existing school transport links currently provided by the routes will continue.

Update from Stephen Kelly, Director of Planning on the Local Plan

Following consultation earlier in the year, the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is due to be considered further at meetings of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Councils in coming weeks. Ahead of the formal Committee stages, the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is publishing all of the consultation responses that have been received to the previous consultation. Between 1 December 2025 and 30 January 2026, 1,287 separate responders made over 8,400 specific representations that have now been processed.

All of the comments have been carefully considered and have helped to shape the final version of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan due to be published, alongside the committee papers, updated evidence and supporting documents on Monday 6 July 2026. Following consideration of the Proposed Submission Local Plan at both Councils' scrutiny meetings (South Cambs on 14 July, Cambridge on 15 July), a Joint Cabinet meeting will be held on 21 July to approve the publication of the Local Plan for consultation over the summer.

This final round of consultation considers the “soundness” of the Plan and legal compliance. Soundness is defined by specific tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework requiring Plans to be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Following the next consultation, the Councils will be asked to approve Submission of the Local Plan and all of the representations received, together with the evidence base and supporting documents, to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

To find copies of all of the representations submitted, please click on this link, and look through each Chapter of the Plan to find the comments at the bottom of the page heading under “view responses”. We have also assessed 949 site submissions during the preparation of the Local Plan and published a Sites Register and map of sites that includes new sites submitted by landowners and promoters as well as sites where representations have been received on previously submitted sites. The Sites Register does not include the individual site assessments as this is contained within the evidence base that will be published on Monday 6 July.

If you have any specific queries in connection with the process, or have any other questions about the Local Plan and its preparation to date, please see the dedicated web pages in the Greater

Cambridge Shared Planning Service website or contact the Planning Policy Team via email at localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org. An online briefing specially for affected parishes in our ward (Elsworth, Knapwell, Boxworth and Papworth Everard) has been scheduled for 20th July at 6:00pm.

Community groups invited to apply for new Community Pantry Grant

South Cambridgeshire groups can now apply for funding to set up community pantries, thanks to a new grant launched by the District Council.

The Community Pantry Grant offers up to £400 to buy equipment and materials to get a community pantry up and running. The new grant is part of a £449,000 package of support to tackle cost-of-living challenges over a 2-year period until March 2028, which was agreed by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet at the end of 2025.

Pantries of this type are simple, community-run spaces that provide residents with free access to food and everyday essentials, helping to tackle food insecurity while also reducing food waste. They are generally accessible, do not usually require staffing, and are maintained by the community.

The grant can be used for items such as shelving, indoor or outdoor storage, small venue adaptations, fridges or freezers, advertising, or other essential costs needed to start a pantry or expand an existing food hub to include one.

Eligible applicants include:

- Parish and Town Councils
- Constituted community groups with a bank account
- Informal groups with written support from their Parish or Town Council or District Councillor.

£5,000 has been allocated this year up to 31 March 2027, or until all funds are allocated. Applications will be assessed by Council officers. A further £5,000 will be available next year, depending on demand for the scheme.

Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/community-pantry-grant to apply.

Applicants can contact duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk for clarification or advice. Additional support for groups unfamiliar with bid writing is available from Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service via 01223 464 696 or enquiries@cambridgecvs.org.uk

Update from Ian Sollom MP on Luton Airport Noise

I continue to hear from residents about the impact that the new Luton Airport flightpath is having on them. Having spoken to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) throughout the consultation and implementation period, it was clear that they have little power to force airlines to stick to approved flightpaths and reduce noise disruption.

I recently met with Luton Airport and NATS (formerly National Air Traffic Services) to raise this, who maintained that the shortcuts taken by planes across our area are useful to reduce fuel usage and emissions, and that these are perfectly consistent with approved flightpaths. They did concede, however, that this wasn't necessarily clear to residents in the consultation on the changes. Though both were unwilling to change their practices unless they deem noise levels to be particularly bad, they are now working with residents in Impington and in the Gransdens to monitor the levels. I will now be writing to the Transport Secretary to ask that enforcement mechanisms on flightpaths be addressed in the upcoming process of introducing a UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS).

GCSP Planning Training for New Parish Councillors

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service will be hosting a training session on Tuesday 21st July, 6 - 7pm, for the benefit of new Parish Councillors, or those wanting a refresher.

The session will cover the need-to-knows of Planning from a Parish Councillors' perspective and allow you to meet some of the GCSP team.

The session will be fully online, via Microsoft Teams. This is to ensure the maximum number of people can participate. The session will also be recorded for the benefit of those who may be unavailable.

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/330926108416026?p=U5SIyd3yRhK7DabSdX>

Meeting ID: 330 926 108 416 026

Passcode: 3Yz7Ha66

Dial in by phone

+44 1223 737950,,270296753# United Kingdom, Cambridge

Find a local number:

Phone conference ID: 270 296 753#

Helping residents stay independent for longer with Mobile Wardens

Hundreds of South Cambridgeshire residents are already benefiting from a simple service that reduces loneliness, boosts confidence and helps people stay independent at home for longer. The District Council is urging more people to take advantage.

The Council is encouraging more residents to make use of the Mobile Warden Schemes which it helps to fund and has created a new video that highlights the benefits – a version of which will be shown in local doctor surgeries. Mobile wardens help people live independently, safely and happily in their own homes.

Molly Chamberlain, a local resident and client of the scheme, said: “When you are sitting at home 24/7 and you can’t get out for whatever reason, you know that in half an hour the warden is coming. You’ll have a chat and she will cheer you up and you feel 100% better. It’s like going out for an evening with a friend.”

The schemes also provide peace of mind for families and carers, offering reassurance that someone local is regularly checking in and supporting their loved ones.

Molly’s daughter, Gail Cooke, commented: “It’s the reassurance of knowing she’s safe in our own home. I can’t always be there for my Mum but the reassurance of knowing that there is an extra pair of hands puts my mind at rest, for which I will always be grateful.”

The schemes, delivered across more than 50 communities in South Cambridgeshire, provide practical and social support for older and more vulnerable residents. Wardens offer regular visits, a friendly face and a trusted point of contact – helping to reduce loneliness and isolation while improving overall wellbeing and quality of life.

Mobile Wardens also play a key role in helping residents feel safer and more confident at home. Through regular check-ins and help with small everyday tasks, wardens can spot potential issues early and prevent them from becoming more serious problems, supporting people to remain independent for longer.

For many clients – of which there are currently around 260 - wardens quickly become a reassuring and trusted presence. Even those who may be unsure at first often come to rely on the service, valuing the consistency and support it offers in their day-to-day lives.

Debbie Stewart, Head Warden for the Melbourn and District Warden Scheme, added: “Usually, a visit consists of a friendly chat. When you visit someone on a regular basis, you learn what’s normal for them. So, you might see them on a Monday, and they might be a bit down. And then you see them again on the Thursday or the Friday and there’s something different and at that point you can intervene. You can either help them to get a doctor’s appointment, or you can contact their family, so it allows you to step in before something gets too serious.”

Importantly, Mobile Warden Schemes are an affordable way to access support. They are designed to complement, not replace, formal care services, and provide a low-cost option that can help people stay in their homes and communities for longer. Wardens can also help residents access additional support, such as benefits they may be entitled to.

Residents or family members who would like to find out more, or refer someone to a local scheme, can visit www.scams.gov.uk/mobile-warden-schemes

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>

Establishment of the DevCo depends on a statutory instrument being agreed by parliament before the summer recess. Local council leaders are discussing with civil servants some of the problems with the initial proposals such as the fairly small size of the sites the DevCo wishes to take control of. 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 regular briefings and we will update you when more details are available.

You may have already picked up that we have expressed serious concerns following a recent government announcement confirming plans to create a Greater Cambridge Urban Development Corporation.

The proposed body would take on some key planning powers currently held by local councils, including decisions about where new homes and jobs are delivered in future.

While we recognise the need for investment to address infrastructure challenges, we stressed this should not come at the expense of local democratic accountability. South Cambridgeshire is already one of the top-performing areas nationally for delivering growth, with planning permission in place for around 37,000 homes. The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan – shaped through extensive public consultation – also sets out proposals for up to 77,000 homes and over 100,000 jobs across the area.

There remain significant questions about how the new corporation would operate, including how decisions would be made and the role of local communities in shaping development. It is anticipated the corporation could also take over responsibility for future Local Plans once the current plan is completed.

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 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.

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=s horturl)

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

If you have any questions about the session, please contact Ella.Rolfe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Illegal Encampments

SCDC has agreed a substantial budget to create a team dedicated to enforcement on illegal and improperly used caravan sites. This will remove the conflict with the current system where planning officers are pulled into enforcement activities and some issues do not get the prompt action that is needed. This team should be set up in the next couple of months.

News from the County Council

Children & Young People

Holiday activities and food

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme returns this summer, with holiday scheme places and nutritious meals for eligible school-aged children across Cambridgeshire from 21 July to 28 August.

Coordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE), Holiday Activities and Food provides primary and secondary aged children with access to healthy food, fun activities and enriching experiences throughout the school holidays. Government funding for the programme is confirmed until December 2028.

More than 130 schemes are expected to run across the county, offering over 2,500 places for children. Activities will range from sports, outdoor adventure and play-based schemes to drama, technology, creative arts and youth-focused programmes.

As part of the summer programme, eligible children will benefit from:

- A wide choice of schemes tailored to different interests and age groups
- Fun, enriching experiences designed to support skill-building and boost confidence
- At least one nutritious meal each day, along with healthy snacks
- Daily physical activity through active play and sports
- A safe, supportive environment delivered by approved local providers

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

Highways & Transport

Highways contract renegotiated

The council has agreed an extension of its road maintenance contract with M Group, which will provide better value for taxpayers and stability during Local Government Reorganisation.

The council's contract with M Group, which was due to end in June 2027, will be extended until June 2030. As part of the extension a number of enhancements to the contract have been jointly agreed between the council and M Group, prioritising improved value for money and quality control.

The new contract extension will come into effect in July this year, with agreed improvements in the delivery of road maintenance services to be rolled out over the course of the summer.

In July 2026, the Government advised that authorities going through Local Government Reorganisation should ensure that their decisions do not negatively impact the sustainability of

successor authorities or limit the ability of those future councils to deliver on their priorities, within their budgets.

This short-term extension will enable the future councils to procure their own road maintenance contract, rather than tying them into a long-term contract. The collaboratively agreed enhancements secure an improved deal for Cambridgeshire's taxpayers a year ahead of when the current contract was due to expire, and include:

- Introduction of fixed costs for regular maintenance activities to secure better value for money and improved accuracy for budgeting
- A revised quality control regime that incentivises delivery of work on time and meeting standards
- Direct penalties for failure to deliver to the required quality and time standards (in addition to remediation of work)
- Tracking of all road maintenance vehicles to enable monitoring of their whereabouts and outputs to ensure we are getting an efficient service

Busway safety

Significant progress has been made to deliver essential safety improvements along the length of the Guided Busway over the last year, with installation of safety fencing to the southern part of the Busway almost complete.

To the north of Cambridge, works are taking place between Cambridge Regional College and Milton Road. After this section has been completed, contractors will continue the installation of separation fencing between Milton Road and Cambridge North station. Procurement for works along the route from Histon to St Ives is expected in summer 2026, with construction due from late summer.

The Guided Busway, which runs between St Ives and Cambridge, is an important part of Cambridgeshire's transport network linking people with major employment hubs, healthcare facilities and education providers. The adjacent path is a well-used active travel route popular with walkers, wheelers, cyclists and horse riders.

The Highways and Transport Committee is being asked to endorse the continued delivery of the safety works on the northern section of the busway, to ensure the continuing use of the innovative transport route and ongoing compliance with health and safety legislation. To ensure these essential safety works are completed as quickly as possible, the £6M cost is being met from Major Infrastructure Reserves.

The programme of safety improvements being delivered includes:

- Installation of separation fencing along the route to create a physical barrier between the path and the Busway
- One new and three upgraded formal crossing points, with £2M allocated to improve accessibility for all users following the installation of perimeter fencing to stop the use of informal cut-throughs
- Flood mitigation measures to ensure walkers and wheelers can safely use the path during and after periods of heavy rain

- Enhanced signage, lighting and speed controls, including reduced bus speeds and a 15MPH limit on the path

Temporary speed limits of 30MPH will be reviewed as new safety infrastructure is completed. On the northern section, variable speeds of up to 40–50MPH may be introduced where appropriate, improving journey times while maintaining safety.

The council has also strengthened busway governance and oversight with regular risk assessments and reports to senior officers. Engagement continues with the Health and Safety Executive.

Bus services at risk

An independent review for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority warns that bus networks across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area could see severe cuts.

Driven by a funding shortfall and Mayor Paul Bristow's announcement that he will not increase his mayoral precept, the report projects a ten per cent network cut by 2029 and a nineteen per cent reduction by 2035, with nearly thirty-eight per cent of services at risk.

Junior Travel Ambassadors

Over eighty Junior Travel Ambassadors from across Cambridgeshire gathered at an event recently to celebrate their achievements, promoting road safety and active travel in their school communities.

Junior Travel Ambassadors are encouraged to make decisions about what they think is needed to improve road safety for their school. The role also involves encouraging the school community to get more active and lead healthier lifestyles. The project has been running since 2015 and there are now 187 Junior Travel Ambassadors from thirty-one primary schools across the county.

Environment & Green Investment

Minerals and Waste local plan

The County Council has agreed to start the process of updating its Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which it does every five years. The content of the plan is intended to address the following.

- The planning policy context in which the new Plan will be prepared and introduces the national decision-making policies.
- How sustainable development and climate change adaption and mitigation will be embedded into the new Plan.
- The vision and outcomes of the Plan, including objectives and aims.
- How much development is required and where it should be located.
- How minerals will be protected from sterilisation and minerals and waste sites will be protected from encroaching development.
- Additional policies that build on the national decision-making policies and address local issues.
- Where site profiles for future allocations will be included in the new Plan.
- Master Plans for large scale minerals and waste development and its restoration, presently this is only the Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan.

- Design guides that shape how waste and minerals developments are designed, and how other development should accommodate waste management within their design (for example, space for bins).
- The indicators that will be used to monitor the Plan.

Consultation on this stage of the plan will open on 3 August and close on 10 October.

Kingsway solar farm application withdrawn

Promoters of the Kingsway solar scheme have withdrawn their application for this large solar farm near Balsham, West Wratting, Weston Colville, Willingham Green, Carlton, Brinkley and Six Mile Bottom connected to Burwell substation. This is assumed to be a temporary withdrawal.

Peter Sandford and Chris Poulton

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Email: cllr.sandford@scambs.gov.uk (Peter) or Chris.Poulton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk (Chris)

Mobiles: 07985 425414 (Peter) or 07971 594037 (Chris)