

Cambridgeshire County Council

MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2026

Sawston and Shelfords Division (Cllrs Damary-Homan & Fane)

FULL COUNCIL

Fenland County Councillor Andy Osborn (Roman Bank and Peckover), elected as a Reform UK representative, is currently a non-aligned independent and is suspended from duties after being found guilty of breaking electoral law by making or publishing a false statement about an opposing candidate.

Mr. Osborn remains entitled to hold his seat until any appeal has been lodged and discharged. No vacancy can be declared until, at the earliest, the period in which an appeal can be lodged has first expired. The earliest date for the seat to be declared vacant is 6 May, if Mr. Osborn chooses not to appeal. If he appeals, the seat will not become vacant until 15 July, unless the appeal is discharged earlier than this date.

At the time of writing, the composition of the county council is as follows:

Liberal Democrat	32
Conservative	10
Reform UK	8
Labour	5
Green	3
Independent	2
Non-aligned Independent	1
Total	61

The Annual meeting of the County Council will take place on Tues 19 May.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

East West Rail consultation

With the election over and the EWR consultation closing on Tues 9 June, I (Laurence) would like to consult personally with each affected parish to inform my submission and guide the work of colleagues and I on EWR moving forward. For Parish Councillors, I will have emailed the Clerk to arrange a meeting. Please agree who would amongst you are best placed to brief me on the Parish Council's position on the proposals in the consultation documents. A reminder that details of the EWR consultation can be found here <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation/consultation2026>

Pothole management

We have another new Senior Highway Maintenance Officer for the area (number 4 since Peter and I took office), whose contact details I will share with the Clerk. He has been with the Council for some time, and has been very diligent since coming into the new role. He has been going through the backlog and responding to outstanding cases that Peter and I have raised over the winter, some going as far back as October. Many of the actual issues have been resolved and we're clearing the paper trail at this time, but it is resulting in action on some outstanding matters. I'll include summaries of what I have logged for your parish but please do note that my tracking is not yet comprehensive.

I've been pleased to see what feels like an uptick in carriageway works across the County Division and wider area, but there is still plenty to be done and I'm painfully aware that some parishes have not seen enough work and have still have significant issues. Peter and I are still calling for action where it is urgent, are reminding officers of the challenges we are facing, and keeping track of works as best we can. Works should come steadily across the summer as we progress through the carriageway issues and the footway/verge issues. Please bear in mind that some works are delayed by the need for permitting and permissions.

Prioritisation for road maintenance 2027/28

The condition of the road network across Cambridgeshire will be mapped in the coming weeks, and the results reviewed to help determine priorities for funding from April 2027.

Cambridgeshire's road hierarchy will also be reviewed in 2027. Road types in the hierarchy below motorway level are as follows.

- Strategic route
- Main distributor
- Secondary distributor
- Link road
- Local access road
- Minor road

LED Lantern Replacement Schedule

A number of parishes are due to see LED replacement works on streetlights. Officer communications on the project advise the following:

“The newer lanterns are more reliable and offer a whiter light which is focused directly downwards on to the highway meaning there's less light spill into surrounding areas. This means that in a residential area, whilst the road is lit, other places such as verges and driveways, which were previously incidentally lit by the old streetlights, can appear darker.”

More information on the project can be found here [Street light replacement programme | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Works are scheduled for August in the following parishes:

- Babraham
- Great Shelford
- Harston

- Haslingfield
- Hauxton
- Stapleford

Please do get in touch if you have any feedback following the works and we will pass these on to officers.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

More children offered first choice primary school place

94.7 per cent of Cambridgeshire children have been offered places at their first preference primary school this September, up 0.6 per cent on last year. The proportion offered a place at either their first, second or third choice school has marginally increased to 98.9 per cent. Just over one per cent of pupils (65 children) have been allocated places at schools not among their expressed preferences, the second lowest proportion recorded in the last five years.

This year saw a slight reduction in the total number of applications received for a primary school place, from 6,457 in 2025 to 6,313 this year.

Healthy Child Programme extended

Councillors have agreed to extend the Healthy Child Programme partnership for two more years. The partnership with Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (now part of the new East of England Community Health & Care NHS Trust) is a national public health programme which aims to achieve good outcomes for all children from before birth through to age nineteen. It includes health visiting for 0-5s, and school nursing for 5-19s.

Since the agreement began a year ago, health visiting performance has steadily improved and in many categories Cambridgeshire is now above regional and national benchmarks.

The percentage of Cambridgeshire children achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of the reception year at school has also seen recent improvements, particularly for children on free school meals. New oral health sessions have been delivered in primary schools, alongside parent/carer webinars to support primary to secondary transition, and the creation of new resources for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Meanwhile the Family Nurse Partnership, a dedicated programme to support vulnerable young parents which is delivered as part of the scheme, has seen positive outcomes encouraging breastfeeding and reducing levels of smoking and teen pregnancies.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND INCLUSION

New vehicle for mobile library service

Cambridgeshire Libraries has been awarded £150,000 by Arts Council England to replace an ageing mobile library with a new, modern vehicle. This is likely to be deployed largely in Fenland.

Second round of Digital Hub grant funding opens

Connecting Cambridgeshire is now accepting applications for the next round of Digital Hubs funding. Community spaces can apply for grants of up to £4,200 to provide residents with free WiFi and digital devices and offer support with digital skills.

More information can be found here [Apply to become a Digital Hub - Connecting Cambridgeshire](#)

Cambridgeshire ACRE slow cooker offer

Cambridgeshire ACRE are currently running a programme across East Cambridgeshire to support people with the cost of living, focusing on practical, low-cost ways to prepare nutritious meals while keeping energy costs down.

As part of this work, they can offer a slow cooker donation and information-only option for community groups, food banks, and food support sessions. This would include:

- donation of slow cookers for people who don't already have one and feel it would help them at home
- clear, easy-to-read information on safe and effective use of a slow cooker
- simple, affordable recipe ideas using low-cost ingredients commonly available through food support

This option is designed to be very light-touch and can be delivered discreetly alongside existing sessions, without adding pressure for volunteers or people using the service.

Cambridgeshire ACRE are also offering, where practical, free slow cooker demonstrations that can be delivered within community groups or food support sessions. These sessions are designed to be flexible and low-key and can work alongside food parcel distribution or existing activities. The session would include:

- a short, practical demonstration using low-cost ingredients commonly available through food support
- information on running costs and safe use of slow cookers
- simple, affordable recipe ideas
- the option to provide free slow cookers to people who don't already have one, where appropriate

More information is available from Rachel.Mason@camsacre.org.uk

The Library Presents

Details of the latest season of the successful *The Library Presents* series have been released. Events are taking place across Cambridgeshire from 16 May-25 July and events will again be held in Sawston and Cambridge Central libraries. More information can be found here [The Library Presents Events](#)

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

£1.38m grant to support water resilience

Councillors have approved plans for a new £1.38 million grant scheme to help farmers and growers across Cambridgeshire use water more efficiently and reduce pressure on the county's chalk streams and water resources.

The Government-funded Water Resilience Grant Scheme will be delivered by Water Resources East (WRE), and will support practical measures such as rainwater harvesting, on-farm water storage and more efficient irrigation. These improvements will help farms become more resilient and access alternative water sources, helping to manage overall water demand across homes, businesses, and the environment.

Detailed design is still being worked through, and more information on how and when farms can apply will be shared in the coming weeks.

Cambridgeshire is already facing growing pressure on water resources. Helping farms and horticultural businesses reduce the amount of water they need to take from rivers and chalk streams will increase water resilience whilst supporting wildlife and protecting sensitive habitats.

More information will be published on the county council and WRE websites when available.

HEALTH SCRUTINY

New ICB launches

The new Central East Integrated Care Board was officially launched on 1 April 2026. There is a new Central East ICB website which includes the new Board's five-year strategy, called *Our Way*.

www.centraleast.icb.nhs.uk/

www.centraleast.icb.nhs.uk/about/icb/five-year-plan/

Breast Cancer self-referral pilot

A new pilot scheme enables patients from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with worrying breast cancer symptoms to be referred directly to specialist clinics at Addenbrooke's, Hinchingsbrooke or Peterborough hospital, without needing a GP appointment. The new self-referral service is available via NHS 111 online or the NHS App and means patients do not need to wait for a GP appointment and subsequent hospital referral, offering eligible patients faster access to diagnostic care. Patients complete a symptom assessment via NHS 111 online.

<https://111.nhs.uk/>

Ambulance service update

The latest update from East of England Ambulance Service reports an improved average response time of 28 minutes 15 seconds for Category 2 emergency calls like chest pain or symptoms of stroke. This is within the thirty-minute target set for all ambulance trusts by NHS England; and it is the local ambulance trust's best monthly average since May 2021.

Cambridge Children's Hospital update

Ahead of the building of the new Cambridge Children's Hospital which is due to start next year, the project has been bringing together the project team, construction team, parents, staff and other stakeholders to review the final designs for the hospital. Meanwhile a new study is looking at how health impacts school readiness. Called BLOOMS (Babies' Longitudinal Outcomes, Omics and Milestones Study), it aims to predict which babies in Neonatal Intensive Care Units are most likely to need additional help to prepare them for school.

Although BLOOMS starts recruiting children in 2026, several years before the

new hospital opens, it will be one of the Cambridge Children's Research Institute's flagship programmes.

CQC mental health service user survey

The Care Quality Commission has published the findings of a community mental health survey of over 12,000 service users. Results for individual trusts can be found including those for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT). The Commission served a warning notice on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust on 12 March 2026 for failing to meet the regulations related to person-centred care, dignity and respect, safe care and treatment and good governance at Fulbourn Hospital and the Cavell Centre in Peterborough. More details can be found here [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust - Care Quality Commission](#)

County Councillors for the Sawston and Shelfords Division

Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan

Laurence.damaryhoman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

07527368891

Cllr Peter Fane

Peter.fane@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

07802256861