Councillor Peter McDonald
District Councillor for Parishes of Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford.
County Councillor for Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow & Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills, Whittlesford

Parish Council Report November 2026

South Cambs Council

Christmas Market 2026

Plans are well underway for this year's South Cambridgeshire Christmas Market, which will return to Cambourne Village College on Sunday 6 December 2026, running from 11am to 3pm with free entry. Now in its fifth year, the indoor market will once again bring together local traders and independent businesses, celebrating the brilliant businesses and talent we have across South Cambridgeshire. This year the market will fill three large halls with local traders showcasing a varied selection of products. There will also be food vendors outside serving hot and festive refreshments, giving visitors the chance to enjoy something tasty while exploring the market.

New planning delegation scheme

The government has introduced a new National Scheme of Delegation that the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service is now obliged to follow along with all other planning services, replacing the existing delegation system. The rules about which decisions must be determined under delegated powers are now more rigid. The planning service explained the new scheme for Parish Councils in an online presentation on 28 October, which was recorded and can be viewed here. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4KyB_20oaw
There is also some guidance available from the government on the changes.

Consultation on Corporate Action Plan for 2027/28 A new consultation gives people the opportunity to share their views on council issues affecting our communities, and the actions they believe would bring the biggest benefit across the district. Feedback will help shape the Council's budget and priorities for 2027/28, including investment in areas such as community wellbeing, affordable housing, climate action, support for local businesses and protecting the natural environment. The Council wants to hear from as many residents, businesses and community groups as possible before final decisions are made. The consultation closes on 8 December. https://engage.scambs.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/cap-27-28

Consultation on taxi licensing policy changes

Proposed changes to South Cambridgeshire District Council's Taxi Licensing Policy aim to make journeys even safer for both passengers and drivers. Residents, visitors, taxi drivers, operators and businesses are being invited to share their views before any final decisions are made. The consultation closes on 29 November. https://engage.scambs.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/taxi-2026

Local Government Reoganisation

The latest update from ministers on 29 October confirmed that local elections for existing councils in Cambridgeshire (in Cambridge and East Cambridgeshire) will go ahead in May 2027 as sheduled, with elections to the new Unitary Authorities now scheduled for May 2028. The details of these new authorities are now expected to be announced early in 2027. Transitional funding of £500k was also announced for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We

are seeking clarification around this as it had previously been announced that all areas would receive £900k of transitional funding for each new Unitary Authority.

Additional Community Chest funding

An additional £20k is set to be invested in South Cambridgeshire District Council's popular Community Chest grant scheme, helping more local groups deliver projects that benefit people across the district. This is in response to strong demand for the original £65k of funding for the current year, which has almost all now been allocated.

Cambs County Council

Cost of Living Support

As we move into winter the CoL support from County has been updated. The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) supports low-income households who are experiencing financial hardship and financial shock. It helps them build financial resilience and community support over time. It is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The funding will last for three years between 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 and has replaced the Household Support Fund (HSF).

Crisis and Resilience Fund in Cambridgeshire

At Cambridgeshire County Council, we have committed to using this fund to support households and individuals facing financial hardship. We also aim to build financial resilience amongst our communities. There are currently two routes to access crisis support through this fund:
Help with the cost of heating oil - Oil Crisis & Resilience Fund: Support with heating oil costs - Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. https://www.cambscf.org.uk/funds/crisis-resilience/
Help with other essentials can be found at:
Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire Citizen Advice Bureau.
https://www.cambridgecab.org.uk/about-us/our-projects/#crisis-and-resilience-fund

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living

EHCP Funding

It has been agreed to commit up to £2M to tackle the long waiting times for families applying for Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) assessment in Cambridgeshire.
The Special Educational Needs (SEND) team has been trying to operate fairly by working to increase the percentage of assessments completed within the statutory 20-week timeframe while also prioritising applications from those who have been waiting the longest.

The council's latest data confirms that total plans delivered this year has increased significantly compared with 2025 (from an average of 38 per month January-May 2025, to 96 per month January-July 2026). However, over the same period, new assessment requests have

also continued to rise (from an average of 159 per month to 208 per month) – resulting in a net increase (of 784 applications) to the current backlog.
Consequently, to tackle the long waiting times for EHCP assessments in Cambridgeshire, the committee unanimously supported investment of up to £2M in a new recovery programme over 12 months.
The recovery programme would commence with immediate effect, prioritising the longest-waiting and highest-risk cases while also tracking incoming demand and recently delayed assessments.
The report received by the committee confirmed separately that £4.837m had been released by the council to support mainstream schools experiencing the greatest pressure from delayed EHCP assessments. The committee papers considered at the recent meeting can be found on our website and it was live streamed on our YouTube channel.

Children in Care Awards
On Friday 9 October, more than 120 children, young people, carers and supporters came together at Inflatebounce in Huntingdon to celebrate the achievements of Cambridgeshire's children in care. The annual Children in Care Celebration and Awards is an opportunity for Cambridgeshire County Council to recognise and celebrate the successes, talents and achievements of children and young people in its care.

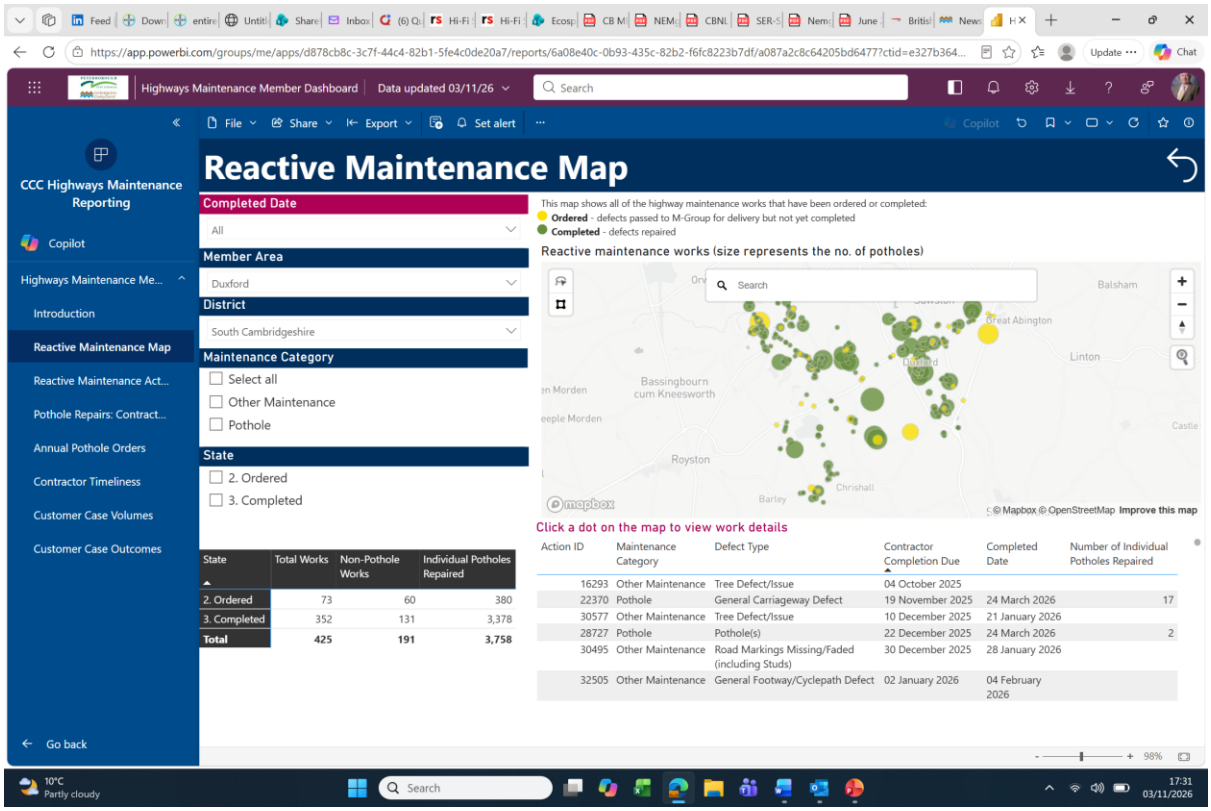
Foster Carer Awards recognise 450 years of service
More than 50 foster carers were recognised at an awards ceremony held at Burgess Hall in St Ives for their dedication to supporting Cambridgeshire's children in care. The Foster Carer Awards provide an opportunity for Cambridgeshire County Council to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary commitment of the council's foster carers and the difference they make. This year, the awards recognised 45 different fostering households, celebrating milestones of five, ten, fifteen, twenty and fifty years of dedicated service.

Together, these fostering households have contributed more than 450 years of collective fostering service, reflecting decades of care and support for local children and young people.
New Highways Dashboard

Snapshot for Duxford Division end October

Previous number was 396 and now 425 in the month

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