Joint report from your District and County Councillors

Whaddon

- Attended an on-site meeting with South Cambs officers regarding land for affordable housing at St Mary's Close.

- Anti-social behaviour in Melbourn / Bassingbourn will be one of the community policing priorities for November to January.

  As local councillors, we had made the case for this, and it is good to see it recognised in the new priorities. Please continue to report any criminal activity to the Police.

  The permanent Community Policing Survey to feed in your priorities is available at: tinyurl.com/yyb782x4

- Parking signage at Meldreth Primary School has been fully reinstated.

Buses

We are continuing to work with the operator A2B, officers at the Combined Authority, and with Cllrs Hobro (Foxton Ward) and Stuart (Gamlingay Division) to improve on the "Bus Services Reimagined" proposals for our villages. The new services are due to be implemented as part of bus franchising in August 2027.

Full details of the proposals are available on Adam's website.

https://adambostanci.mycouncillor.org.uk/2026/09/11/combined-authority-bus-proposals-cam-vale-bus-user-group/

Local Government

The Government announced at the end of October that it has still not made up its mind about new council boundaries for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Minister has committed to coming back to Parliament with outcomes in another set of areas by Christmas – and to work to ensure that every area will have an outcome by early next year. The expectation is now that there will be shadow elections to new unitary councils in 2028, and that the new councils will be up and running in May 2029.

Planning

Following the recent Local Plan consultation, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has now published 2800 representations from 767 people and organisations on the Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan webpage. If approved by the two councils, an independent examination of the Local Plan with housing targets and broader development policies is expected to commence in Spring 2027. Obviously, the Development Corporation may in time have an impact in this area.

Under Government's new national scheme of delegation, parish council's "call-in" powers to request that local planning applications are decided by planning committees have been abolished (supposedly to speed up planning). Parish Councils and residents can still submit comments to object/support to applications or consultations within the usual 21-day timeframe. It is arguably even more important that you do.

Applications known as "Schedule 1" are now decided by planning officers. These include householder applications, minor residential schemes of up to 9 homes, most reserved matters applications, discharge of conditions, prior approvals and non-material amendments.

"Schedule 2" applications are larger or more complex proposals that raise significant economic, social, environmental or planning issues. For these, a new Gateway Meeting will decide whether each application is referred to the Planning Committee. The meeting involves the Delivery Manager or Team Leaders as the nominated officer, and the Chair or Vice Chair of the committee as the nominated member.

Environment

Applications are open for a free tree and hedgerow giveaway to landowners, community groups, parish councils or organisations looking to create wildlife habitat, connect existing green spaces, or enhance local landscapes. Apply here: tinyurl.com/3hdfdhsh.

This year is only the latest in a series of tough years for local farmers. We could go on and on about this, but if you want to form your own opinion, the People's Emergency Briefing film continues to be screened in our area during November and December. It is worth spending one hour of your life on this.

https://www.nebriefing.org/

Education

County council will commit up to £2M to tackle long waiting times for families applying for Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) assessment in Cambridgeshire. The number of EHCPs delivered this year has increased significantly (from an average of 38 per month in January-May 2025, to 96 per month in January-July 2026). However, over the same period, new assessment referrals have also continued to rise, from an average of 159 per month to 208 per month. The Children & Young People committee will receive comprehensive and regular updates to show how the extra investment is working. Meanwhile, over £4.8M has been released by the council to support mainstream schools experiencing the greatest pressure from delayed EHCP assessments.

Waste

Reducing Fly Tipping: A new campaign has launched to help residents dispose of unwanted items responsibly and reduce fly-tipping across South Cambridgeshire. The "Your Waste, Your Responsibility" campaign reminds residents they have a duty of care to ensure their waste is passed to a properly licensed, registered waste carrier to dispose of. Since the start of 2024/25, the Council has received more than 3,800 reports of fly-tipping in South Cambridgeshire.

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-waste

Highways

Please continue to report any highways issues as usual:

https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb

Council News

A reminder that the County Council's public engagement process on this phase of its budget planning closes on Sunday 15 November, and can be found at

https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business-planning/27-28-phase-1-engagement/
Residents across South Cambridgeshire are being invited to help decide what matters most to them as the District Council plans its priorities and spending for the year ahead.

The survey until 11:59pm on Tuesday 8 December 2026.

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/residents-invited-to-help-shape-the-year-ahead-in-south-cambridgeshire

If you have any questions or need any advice or support, please don't hesitate to contact your local councillors.

Jose Hales, District Councillor

Sally-Ann Hart, District Councillor

Adam Bostanci, County Councillor