

District and County Councillor's Report – September 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

The process, as requested by central Government, to merge District and County Councils into Unitary Authorities is proceeding. The latest is that all local authorities in Cambridgeshire will have to submit their suggestions for how best they see a new local government structure working in the county. There are currently 3 proposals on the table:

Option A:

- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & East Cambridgeshire.
- Fenland, Huntingdonshire & Peterborough.

Option B:

- South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City.
- East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland & Peterborough.

Option C:

- South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City & Huntingdonshire.
- Fenland, Peterborough & East Cambridgeshire.

The local views are that the District Council's preference is Option B, which would leave us in an administrative partnership with Cambridge City only. This is largely what currently happens, with many services already shared between the two authorities.

Ultimately, central government will make the final decision so the business cases being drawn up will be highly important to influencing this decision.

Kingsway Solar Farm

The application for a new solar farm in the vicinities of West Wratting, Weston Coville and Carlton is moving forward. The next step will be that the applicants, Kingsway Solar, will release some actual detail (not just lines drawn around fields on a map) into the public domain. This detail will then be publicly consulted on via what's called a 'Formal Consultation'. This is a very important stage of the process as the responses to this will form a part of the planning application which is submitted to a planning inspector. We would strongly advise everyone to engage with this consultation, once it's open, as this potential development will affect us all in some way, regardless of proximity to the solar sites.

The applicants have indicated that they'll launch the formal consultation on September 17th, although, at time of writing, this isn't confirmed.

Wastewater Treatment Works

You may have read in the local press that the proposed relocation of the wastewater treatment works has been cancelled by government due to the rising costs. A result of this is that the District Council now needs to find another site that can deliver circa 5000-6000 houses to ensure that the Local Plan (the housing development plan for the next 30-ish years) remains sound. The likely site that is the front-runner to replace this is Grange Farm in Abington. This is TBC, and dependant on lots of other factors, but is currently the local authorities preferred site.

Greenway

The next phase of the Linton to Babraham greenway (the new-ish foot/cycle/horse path adjacent to the A1307) is to connect the path from Linton Village College to the recreation ground. This will be routed down Joiners Road to link up with the new footpath there. The engineering assessment work is currently being undertaken here with a view to commissioning the work in the coming months.

At the other end of the Greenway, the route via Abington to reach the A11 road crossing on Newmarket Road is currently re-looking at the options for routing of this. The original idea to route this through the village was dismissed following a public consultation. The route around Pampisford Road also has its issues, mainly due to land ownership and cost. Other options are currently being looked at by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP).

Police Panel

There is an online police panel meeting on September 16th at 7pm. This is a public forum for the local policing team in South Cambs to give updates on their service and an opportunity for anyone to ask questions, should they want to. If you'd like to attend then email 'South Cambs' to communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk

Grants

There are a raft of community-focussed grants available via the District and County Councils. Rather than list them all here, all can be seen on the respective websites:

Distirct Council - <https://scambs.gov.uk/grants-and-funding>

County Council - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/communities-service/community-service-small-grants>

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