

District and County Councillor's Report – February 2026

Grange Farm

At the end of 2025, the District Council released their draft Local Plan – which is the development plan for the next 20 years and indicates the parcels of land in South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City that they feel can accommodate housing and commercial development to feed the population and economic growth during this time.

They have been consulting on this, plus all of the other proposals in South Cambridgeshire, for the last few months and thank you to everyone that engaged with this. It's the most important time in the Local Plan process to have your say on what could be an enormous change in the landscape of our area.

The District Council will now assess all of the feedback they have received and will come back with a final plan. More to follow.

Local Government Reorganisation

Following the submission to central government, by local authorities in Cambridgeshire, of their preferred geographic splits of what new unitary authorities would look like, we now wait until the government have digested this information. The next question was whether we would have District Council elections this May, as scheduled, as the District Council would be subsumed into a new unitary authority the following year.

However, the election for representatives to the District Council will still go ahead in May this year, as planned.

Kingsway Solar

In early January Kingsway Solar announced that they were launching a 'targeted consultation' on some changes they are proposing to make to their plans, which were put into the public domain last year. These mainly include the concentration of solar panels and battery storage into specific areas, which are away from heritage assets, such as the Roman Road and Weston Colville Church.

The consultation closes on February 4th, so likely after many of you will have read this. If you are interested in looking at the changes, they can be seen on the Kingsway Solar website - <https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/consultation/>

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

20mph Scheme

Each year the County Council offers parishes the opportunity to bid for areas, or all, of their villages to have their speed reduced to 20mph, which previously was very difficult to achieve. Some villages in our area have already been successful in this process.

The application window has now reopened and will be open until the end of March. Full detail can be seen at - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/applying-for-20mph-funding>

Potholes

As I'm sure everyone is aware, pothole season is upon us. In most cases, potholes open up when the weather is wet and cold, as the water gets into the road, freezes and expands, opening up the road surface. This happens all over the country every year and is extremely annoying, especially for those that suffer damage as a result of hitting them. In most cases the County Council are responsible for maintaining the road surface, which includes repairing any potholes that are deemed to be of at least a certain width & depth – this is called the 'intervention level'. Anything under these criteria is unlikely to be repaired straight away, as it's not deemed an immediate danger.

The message from the County Council is to keep reporting all potholes you come across via the Highways department's website - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

If the hole is so large you think it's an immediate danger, then you can raise it as a Highways emergency. There is a specific phone number you can call, which is 0345 045 5212 during office hours. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/report-a-highways-emergency> - the Police non-emergency number 101 can be used outside of these times.

It might not seem it to some, but the County Council are trying to tackle them the best they can and have allocated over £73 million for highways maintenance in 2025/26 and are planning an additional £20 million of investment in 2026/27. They have also upped the number of crews they have repairing these holes from 8 to 30.

There is a good local news article on this, if anyone is interested - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czej21gg817o>

Contact Details

District Council – Geoff Harvey – geoff.harvey@gmail.com

County Council – Henry Batchelor – henrybatchelor89@gmail.com