

District & County Cllr Report Bassingbourn & Kneesworth PC July 2026

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Local Buses

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) is undertaking a Bus Network Engagement, which is closing shortly.

They are asking residents to share views on proposed changes to bus services, including for Bassingbourn and Kneesworth – where residents could see more frequent “E” bus services to replace the current 17 and 26 services.

We have been working through the Cam Vale Bus User Group to formulate a draft response to the consultation.

- Special consideration should be given to enable students to travel to the village colleges in Bassingbourn and Melbourn.
- The Bus User Group has requested that parish councils take a more active interest in local bus services.

It is important to respond to inform future decisions about services.

<https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-network-review-engagement/>

The engagement closes at 5:00pm on 28th July 2026.

We have also shared the report of the recent Cam Vale Bus User Group meeting with the Clerk for the attention of councillors. Both the CPCA and A2B, the bus operator, were in attendance.

Hosepipe ban

From 9 July 2026, hosepipe restrictions are in place across the Cambridge Water region following one of the driest springs in recent years and exceptionally warm weather throughout the summer so far.

<https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/household/temporary-hosepipe-ban>

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/news/hosepipe-ban-announcement>

Helping residents stay independent for longer with Mobile Wardens

Hundreds of South Cambridgeshire residents are already benefiting from a simple service that reduces loneliness, boosts confidence and helps people stay independent at home for longer – and the District Council is urging more people to take advantage.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/helping-residents-stay-independent-for-longer-with-mobile-wardens>

Updated Greater Cambridge Local Plan published ahead of final public consultation

An updated version of the Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan has been published, marking a major milestone in preparing the first joint Local Plan for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire.

Subject to approval by councillors this month, the Plan will undergo a final round of public consultation from 3 August to 25 September before it is submitted to Government to be examined by an Independent Planning Inspector.

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will shape how Greater Cambridge grows over the next 20 years. It identifies where new homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure should be located and sets planning policies on themes including climate change, biodiversity, wellbeing, sustainable transport and creating great places to live and work.

Once adopted, it will become the statutory development plan for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire and will guide decisions on planning applications across the area. The latest version of the Plan reflects continued work on infrastructure constraints such as water supply, forecasts on job creation and housing need, confirming a requirement for over 50,000 new homes between 2024 and 2045. Around 37,000 of these are already planned through existing permissions and the current, adopted Local Plan allocations.

Residents can sign up for updates and find out more at:

<https://www.scambbs.gov.uk/local-plan>

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government has advised that it has not yet been able to make a decision on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Last year, the Government set out clear criteria for reorganisation proposals, including improving service delivery, strengthening local accountability and ensuring long-term financial sustainability for future councils. We believe that there were clear, locally developed options that met these criteria, which would have enabled Government to decide.

By delaying their decision, Government prolongs the current period of uncertainty, and this creates increased risk about the achievability of the Government's self-imposed timescale and, in doing so, potentially forces that same risk of failure upon the seven Councils by expecting them to still deliver reorganisation by April 2028.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/lgr-announcement>

Highway maintenance

You may have noticed that the county council is spending unprecedented amounts on highways maintenance, with Chestnut Lane / Kneesworth Road resurfaced, and the maintenance crews are doing their utmost to repair potholes and follow up on maintenance issues.

The council has renegotiated the 10-year-old maintenance contract to include financial penalties for poor repairs by the contractor. We hope this will further improve response times and the quality of the repairs.

In line with government guidance, the council has not appointed a new highways maintenance contractor in anticipation of local government reorganisation in two years' time. The extension of the existing contract (with new penalties) will allow the future unitary local council for our area to determine its own highways maintenance arrangements, without being encumbered by a many-year legacy contract.

Road surfaces remain in a poor condition due to many years of national underspending, but all repairs done before the winter will reduce the number of potholes that open up when the cold and wet weather arrives. Additional funding should shortly be forthcoming to bring our roads into the best possible shape for winter.

Please continue to report all highway defects:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

Non-emergency criminal activity

Following some recent incidents, a reminder: Reporting issues in our community is crucial so that the relevant services are aware, can act on any incidents and patterns of incidents, and involve local council-run services.

If you see any non-emergency criminal activity in our area, please do report it to the Police. Details on how to report, including via the online forms, are available at: <https://www.cambs.police.uk/ro/report/>

If the activity involves the railway, you may also report it to the British Transport Police, for example by text message to 61016.

In cases of anti-social behaviour, fly tipping or licensing, please also notify South Cambridgeshire District Council online at:

<https://forms.scambs.gov.uk/REPORTANENVIRONMENTALISSUE/launch>

South Cambridgeshire District Council Grants – Reminder

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

As mentioned previously, a reminder that South Cambridgeshire District Council's Zero Carbon Communities Grant is open, with Parish Councils or local community groups invited to apply. Feel free to contact us with questions or visit.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant>

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 24 July 2025.

Community groups invited to apply for new Community Pantry Grant

South Cambridgeshire groups can now apply for funding to set up community pantries, thanks to a new grant launched by the District Council.

The Community Pantry Grant offers up to £400 to buy equipment and materials to get a community pantry up and running. The new grant is part of a £449,000 package of support to tackle cost-of-living challenges over a 2-year period until March 2028, which was agreed by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet at the end of 2025.

Pantries of this type are simple, community run spaces that provide residents with free access to food and everyday essentials, helping to tackle food insecurity while also reducing food waste. They are generally accessible, do not usually require staffing, and are maintained by the community.

The grant can be used for items such as shelving, indoor or outdoor storage, small venue adaptations, fridges or freezers, advertising, or other essential costs needed to start a pantry or expand an existing food hub to include one.

Eligible applicants include:

- Parish and Town Councils
- Constituted community groups with a bank account
- Informal groups with written support from their Parish or Town Council or District Councillor.

£5,000 has been allocated this year up to 31 March 2027, or until all funds are allocated. Applications will be assessed by Council officers. A further £5,000 will be available next year, depending on demand for the scheme.

Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/community-pantry-grant to apply.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break,

Adam