



---

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,  
11TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT SESSIONS HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY**

---

**PRESENT:** Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr C Phillips, Mayor

Cllr R Denness

Cllr L Fox

Cllr M Wade

*County Cllr P Coutts*

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr Rebecca Ward

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr P Gardner

Cllr C Ní Dhónaill

Cllr S Austen

Cllr K Holtzmann (arrived 7.06 pm)

**1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Warman and Pitt. The reasons for their absences were accepted.

**2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH JUNE 2023 AND MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 31st July 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055 and 2056 refer. Matters Arising:- Page 2052, item 14 – Cllr Banyard reported he had attended a Ribe Association meeting where they had expressed their thanks to the Council for its contribution towards the Ribe visit in November.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported he had now had two conversations with the police regarding the damage at the Council's skatepark site at St John's Road. The case is ongoing and further updates will be given when available. He reminded councillors that the by-election for Ely North will take place on the 21st September. Once a new councillor has been elected the Council would meet the criteria to undertake the General Power of Competence. He would request that the Clerk provides information at the next Full Council meeting on the implications of this. He also reminded councillors of the Mayor's Charity quiz night and fish and Chip supper, which would be held on the 29th September at St Mary's Church Hall.

**6. QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present, so no questions were received.

## **7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A written report was received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. Cllr Coutts was asked questions about overgrown vegetation and some locations were given to him, which he agreed to look into the action taken by the County Council. Cllr Austen asked about the formal adoption of Upherds Lane and Cllr Coutts agreed to look into this. Cllr Holtzmann asked Cllr Coutts about volunteers for snow clearing and gritting. The Clerk explained that this has been considered previously by the Council under the Climate and Environment Committee, but has always been agreed, due to the lack of interest, it was not something the Council could move forward with. It was agreed it should be discussed at the next Climate and Environment Committee. Cllr Wade, in her capacity as a District Councillor reported that there would be a meeting of the Operation Services Committee next week.

## **8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT**

The Mayor had presented certificates to summer school students from Ghana and Nigeria who had attended a course in Littleport. He had visited RAF Mildenhall for the annual BBQ and briefing on the work of the 'Bloody 100<sup>th</sup>' and attended a service at Ely Methodist Church, where the Revd Cathrine Dixon had been appointed Circuit Superintendent. He had been asked to welcome Ms Dixon on behalf of the City. He also informed councillors that he and Cllr Banyard had attended a meeting of the Ely Ribe Association in preparation for the Association's AGM. He had also had meetings with the Dean of Ely and with Catherine Horobin, the new CEO of the Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce.

## **9. PLANNING**

Cllr Morgan gave a report on the last planning meeting.

## **10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Street Naming & Numbering:- 4A Ely Road, Prickwillow, Ely

Notification of Street Closures:- Main Street, Prickwillow, Ely – 13-15.9.23; A142, Soham Road, Stuntney, Ely – 18-20.10.23; Church Lane, Ely – 5.10.23

## **11. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – Cllr Ní Dhónaill presented a report of a meeting held on the 14th August, which was noted and approved. The recommendations from the CIL Sub-Committee with regards to the approved project fund of £47,000 for failed Local Highways Bids being put back into the CIL funds; confirmation awaited from Cllr Denness' discussion with the Combined Authority Mayor as to whether the allocated CIL funding for the No 9 bus service would still be required. If this was not then it would no longer be ringfenced and would be put back into the available CIL funds and the refusal of the request for the Ely Eel Rock installation for £7000 as it had not met the criteria for CIL funding were all proposed by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and seconded by Cllr Moss-Eccardt. These were unanimously approved. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the Council purchases the Pan African flag to be flown for the month of October to mark Black History month. This was seconded by Cllr Gardner and unanimously approved. The Council were awaiting the outcome of their planning application for approval to fly the flag. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the Council formally approve and adopt the Ely Children and Young People's Action Plan 2023-2025. This was seconded by Cllr Banyard and unanimously approved. The Council had received a letter from Ely Museum requesting the Council consider a rise to the amount of annual grant that it gives to the Museum. Councillors agreed any decision to increase this grant would have to be considered as part of the budget planning for the next financial year. There was no money available in the current year's budget to increase this year. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed the Council assess at the end of the financial year if there is any underspend that could be given to them. This was seconded

## **11. COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED .....**

by Cllr Gardner and unanimously approved. The grant applications list of recommendations of awards were considered. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed all the recommendations be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Gardner and unanimously approved. Cllr Gardner was appointed as the Council's Safeguarding Lead.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – No report as Committee had not met due to it not being quorate.

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Morgan presented a report of a meeting held on the 7th August 2023, which was noted and approved. Cllr Moss-Eccardt had been appointed as the lead member for Recreation and Cemetery and Cllr Austen as the lead member for the Maltings. The new equipment for St John's play area will be installed mid-September. The wet pour repairs for this play area had been agreed, but the Deputy Clerk has since been advised the best option would be to completely replace these with new wet pour. The original cost of £3-4000 would raise to approximately £17,000. Cllr Morgan requested that an increase to the cost be covered from the recreation earmarked reserves. This was unanimously agreed. The Deputy Clerk will obtain three quotes for this work. The fitness stations, which will be funded from CIL will be slightly more than approved at approximately £22,000. Cllr Morgan requested that the funding from CIL be increased to cover this. This was unanimously agreed. The Mayor wanted to ensure that the decision made by the Committee with regard to the sensory garden was recorded and noted. This being that there will be no burials within the Sensory Garden as the space will remain a place for recollection. It will also have a hedge planted to define the area. Three new members had been coopted on to the Christmas Lights Sub-Committee. The Deputy Clerk had met with an officer from ECDC who had welcomed the suggestion to install 5 fitness stations between Morley Drive and West Fen Road. ECDC have requested standard terms and conditions, such as responsibility, equipment checks, repairs and replacement and that any correspondence regarding the equipment will be dealt with by the City of Ely Council. The Deputy Clerk will provide these in due course. The CIL Sub-Committee will be approached for £20K to fund the project.

(iv) TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE – Cllr Banyard presented a report of a meeting held on the 21st August 2023, which was noted and approved. The update on the service and town centre and the digital signage and Visit Ely App were all noted. Cllr Banyard reported thanks on behalf of Cllr Warman in her absence, to Anna and her team for achieving the Traveller's Choice 2023 award for OCH and being nominated again this year for Visit England's Hidden Gem. Apple Day will be held shortly, and this has been expanded this year, due to the increased interest from traders to attend. Thorlabs will be sponsoring the event. The recent issues raised with regard to the town centre and the public assuming this is the Council's responsibility, when in fact it is ECDC will be discussed at the next Communications and PR Working Group.

## **12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

There were no reports from external meetings. Cllr Morgan informed councillors he would be attending the Prickwillow Village Council meeting next week and they would be discussing the telephone box. The Clerk agreed to locate the old records for the transfer of the ownership over to the PVC and provide this information to Cllr Morgan.

## **13. TO PASS A RESOLUTION FOR THE COUNCIL TO SIGN UP TO THE CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE**

This had already been discussed at Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee and they unanimously agreed to put forward this resolution. Councillors felt very strongly that this was something the Council should sign up to. Cllr Ward proposed the Council pass the resolution to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge, which was seconded by Cllr Holtzmann and unanimously approved.

**14. TO PASS A RESOLUTION THAT MRS A REDDICK, BUSINESS LIAISON ASSISTANT BE SPECIFIED AS A PENSIONABLE EMPLOYEE UNDER REGULATION B1(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS 1986 (AS AMENDED)**

Cllr Banyard proposed that Mrs A Reddick be specified as a pensionable employee under Regulation B1(5) of the Local Government Regulations 1986 (as amended). This was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously agreed.

*County Cllr Coutts left the meeting at 8.25 pm.*

**PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**

Cllr Phillips proposed to resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously agreed by councillors.

**15. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE WITH REGARD TO THE CCTV TENDERING PROCESS AND TO APPROVE THE PROCESS MOVING FORWARD**

The Clerk and Cllr Wade provided an update with regard to the CCTV tendering process. This had been undertaken through Crown Commercial Services and the report from the Council's consultant was noted and considered with his recommendation to appoint the contract to Openview. Cllr Wade proposed this be approved and this was seconded by Cllr Austen. Councillors approved this recommendation. It was agreed at letter of intent would be sent to Openview as there were still further details within the contract to be confirmed.

*Item 16 was taken before item 15 due to the requirement to go into Committee for item 15 due to the commercial sensitive information to be discussed.*

**16. FINANCE**

Cllr Phillips proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Austen and unanimously approved.

*Direct debit payments and BACS payments*

ECDC	200.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	293.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2095.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	524.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	200.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	293.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2095.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	524.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	785.67	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	340.72	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	278.40	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	299.71	Paid by direct debit

2060

.....  
MAYOR  
30th October 2023

**16. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

Cybertill Ltd	70.14	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	8210.28	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	193.88	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	125.74	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	17.63	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	473.05	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	35.69	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	267.81	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	262.84	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	303.24	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	772.90	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	441.89	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	2651.34	Paid by direct debit
Siemens Financial Services Ltd	452.40	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	655.72	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	96.02	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	243.36	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	94.38	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	278.67	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	115.36	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	106.85	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	24.20	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	161.13	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1464.74	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1783.03	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
Public Works Loan Board	9508.08	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	302.46	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	127.72	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
Human Capital Department	178.80	Paid by BACS
Star Editions	411.61	Paid by BACS
Mile Tree Brewery	366.34	Paid by BACS
Mr M Welch	50.00	Paid by BACS
D Holt	50.00	Paid by BACS
Tourism South East	1571.40	Paid by BACS
R Hughes	859.90	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	456.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	154.57	Paid by BACS
Bannold Supplies & Services Ltd	192.00	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
P Sadgrove	85.00	Paid by BACS
Wisbech Town Council	40.00	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	315.72	Paid by BACS
Mrs K Evans	110.00	Paid by BACS

**16. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

Waterbeach Brass	250.00	Paid by BACS
Mr R J Caracciolo	81.50	Paid by BACS
Thompson Media Partners Ltd	350.00	Paid by BACS
CSD Brass	250.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	362.64	Paid by BACS
Research Reach Inc	300.00	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	324.00	Paid by BACS
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	63.60	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Mobility Ltd	156.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1373.95	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	208.80	Paid by BACS
Housden's Catering Ltd	1991.25	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
DTP Southfield	752.83	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	122.10	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	373.14	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
Somersham Town Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	32.80	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	111.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	83.98	Paid by BACS
Kiss Communications	108.00	Paid by BACS
L E Enterprises	1000.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department	178.80	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	116.55	Paid by BACS
D Gray	250.00	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	293.83	Paid by BACS

*The following invoices had already been paid prior to the Full Council, due to due date of payment with the approval of the Chairman*

City Cycle Centre	23.05	114465
Cloisters Antiques	50.00	114466
G & J Peck Ltd	7.49	114467
ESPO	284.70	114468
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	775.20	114469
CAPALC	150.00	114470
A Bennett	38.03	114471
C Phillips	36.55	114472
Eden Farm Hulleys	62.98	114473
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	175.76	144774
ECDC	231.00	114475
Securitas Security Services (UK) Ltd	657.72	114476
Jewson Ltd	24.85	114477

**16. FINANCE CONTINUED .....***The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting*

ECDC	525.00	114478
G & J Peck Ltd	6.98	114479
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	150.97	114480
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	110.02	114481
ELC Group	2600.93	114482
CoolerAid Ltd	30.12	114483
City Cycle Centre	61.63	114484
Anglia Sprayers Ltd	342.08	114485
British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	155.20	114481
RGP Security Services Ltd	327.44	Paid by BACS
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	35.69	Paid by direct debit
Today Magazines Ltd	175.56	Paid by BACS
HM Revenue & Customs	11372.16	114486
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	106.35	114480
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	304.00	114487
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
Aztek Services Ltd	586.80	114488
M Welch	50.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	88.80	Paid by BACS
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	15612.99	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	391.58	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	239.45	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	36.02	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	846.77	Paid by direct debit
We Are Blueshed Ltd	1044.00	Paid by BACS
PPL PRS Ltd	7633.75	Paid by BACS
ECDC	209.82	114489

**Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 31st July 2023**

Salaries and wages	£36,546.57
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£11,355.04
Pension fund payments	£11,930.71

**Members noted and approved the bank reconciliations against the accounts for the periods ending 31st July and 31st August 2023**

*The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.*





# Cllrs Piers Coutts and Alison Whelan

MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

---

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in schools

A Government order to schools to immediately shut buildings made with aerated RAAC concrete until safety work can be undertaken has been prominent in the news as term starts.

RAAC is a lightweight, bubbly form of concrete usually found in roofs and occasionally in walls and floors. It looks like standard concrete but is weaker, less durable, deteriorates over time, and is also prone to collapse when wet. The problem has been known for a long time, but the *Building Schools for the Future* rebuilding programme was scrapped by Michael Gove in 2010. Attention returned to the use of the material in schools in 2018 when the roof of a primary school in Kent collapsed 24 hours after signs of structural stress began to appear.

Fortunately as of the start of this month all but three of Cambridgeshire's schools have been surveyed and no RAAC has been found. The Council has no concerns about the remaining schools but at the time of writing each requires a survey to rule out RAAC.

Following assessments and surveys, the County Council has also been able to confirm that none of its public buildings have been found to contain RAAC.

### RAAC elsewhere

RAAC has been causing issues in a number of hospitals including Hinchingbrooke and especially the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn where last October the number of wooden and steel props required to hold up the building had risen to 2,482. The hospital has been promised a rebuild estimated to cost £862M but this will not be open until 2029 at the earliest.

### Childminders and restrictive covenants

A council motion successfully proposed to the County Council by our colleague Cllr Firouz Thompson in Northstowe has prompted change at national level. The motion drew attention to the fact that many new developments had covenants placed on homes so that they could not be used for childminding. This was leading to shortages of childminding capacity in many places.

This motion has attracted national interest, and the relevant Government minister has now written to developers as well as housing associations and

landlords, asking them to better support prospective childminders and remove these barriers to parents seeking to return to the workforce.

Cllr Thompson found that while in 2019 there were 641 childminders in Cambridgeshire, by January 2023 this had reduced to 456, a drop of 17 per cent. Additionally, the data shows that the number of childminders operating in new developments is significantly lower than those within surrounding villages, despite demand.

---

## **COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)**

### **Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund**

A reminder that this fund is open until 24 September, for bids of up to £40,000 for capital projects to improve or upgrade community buildings and assets.

**[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/cambridgeshire-priorities-capital-fund](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/cambridgeshire-priorities-capital-fund)**

### **Libraries of Sanctuary award**

Libraries throughout Cambridgeshire have been awarded Libraries of Sanctuary status. This national award celebrates libraries that work hard to demonstrate hospitality, solidarity and welcome to new arrivals in the area. The title was awarded by City of Sanctuary UK, a nationally coordinated network of organisations and services, including councils, universities, theatres and libraries that welcome and support refugees and people seeking asylum.

---

## **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT**

### **Major planning applications updates**

- The Wisbech incinerator planning examination closed on Monday 21 August. The County Council submitted a joint letter with Fenland District Council stating its final position and itemising remaining areas of disagreement with the proposal.
- A decision from the Secretary of State on the Sunnica solar farm application is expected by the end of this month. The Chair of the County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee wrote a letter to the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, to draw to his attention the poor level of engagement by the applicant with local communities.
- The process for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation (from North East Cambridge to Horningsea) is ongoing. This is one of the schemes that Michael Gove has said his planning 'hit squad' for his 'Cambridge 2040' project will aim to speed up, though it is not clear how. The same can be said of the proposal for a new Fens Reservoir in the Doddington-Wimblington area.

- As at the end of July, 84 properties at Swaffham Prior had their external connections to the new community heat scheme completed, with 40 of those customers fully connected to the heat network and receiving heat. 23 Sanctuary Housing Association properties are among those with their external connection completed. One fully connected property is a Grade II listed building.

---

## HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

### A10/A142 BP roundabout

In response to the vociferous campaign by local county councillors Alison Whelan, Piers Coutts, Lorna Dupre and others, County Council officers have been working with consultants to narrow down options for delivering a safe crossing for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders at this notoriously dangerous roundabout, and potential costings and timescales should be known by the end of this month.

Liberal Democrat county and district councillors opposed the reconfiguration of this roundabout—by the previous Mayor and previous county Council administration with the support of the District Council leadership—at the time of its planning and construction, because of the lack of consideration for anything except cars.

We have been consistently pressing for safe crossing facilities to be put in place. It is shocking that this will require two sets of lengthy works at this junction, rather than building in the interests of non-motorised users from the start, when the road was widened for cars without being made safe for everyone else.

The next phase will involve feasibility studies, public consultation, and the announcement by the Combined Authority and County Council of a preferred option. We are continuing to make the case for funding to be identified to carry out these next stages and move to construction, and for the work to be completed as quickly as possible.

### Weeds

We are aware of growing complaints about weeds in various parts of the district and across the county. The County Council's current Highways Operational Standards state that the Council will apply weed killer using a targeted approach at agreed locations identified on the basis of risk, rather than cyclically as before. This policy affects about 30 per cent of the highway network in Cambridgeshire, as only kerbed urban areas were previously cyclically treated for weeds.

The County Council's policy remains to remove hazardous weeds, or weeds causing safety issues or nuisance. Where the use of chemical weed killer is part of wider maintenance activity it is still carried out—for example weeds should be cleared before slurry sealing footways or surface treating carriageways.

## **Weekly food waste collection**

The County Council has responded to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) within its 4 August deadline, rejecting 'transitional arrangements' for district councils in Cambridgeshire to move to weekly food waste collections.

Under the Government's proposals, the district councils would receive financial support to move to the new arrangements, but the County Council would not, despite having submitted evidence showing that the move would incur considerable ongoing costs for the County Council.

This all shows how difficult it can be to manage waste in a 'two tier' council system, when one council is responsible for collecting waste and another council is responsible for disposing of it. It has been encouraging to see the determined attempts by the local councils in Cambridgeshire to work together as a 'whole system' for waste despite this barrier.

## **Government delays 'extended producer responsibility' scheme**

The Government has confirmed that the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme will be deferred for a year. The decision means first payments to councils from the scheme will now be expected in October 2025. The delay is disappointing for councils such as Cambridgeshire, and it is critical the scheme is introduced in ways that cover the full costs for councils and incentivise industry to reduce unnecessary packaging and increase recyclability.

The aim of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is for producers to pay the full net costs of managing and recycling the packaging waste they produce. This will help to reduce unnecessary and difficult to recycle packaging and increase recycling.

## **Carbon footprint**

The Government has recently published new data on the greenhouse gas emissions of each local authority area for 2005 to 2021. This shows that the carbon footprint of the whole of Cambridgeshire was 6.78M tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021. Transport is now the highest emitting sector in the county.

Work is also still under way collating data on the County Council's own organisational carbon footprint for the financial year 2022-23. This will be presented to the Environment & Green Investment Committee later in the year, alongside further details of the county-wide emissions.

## **Renewable energy updates**

- All the solar carports are now in place in the first part of the main car park at Babraham Park & Ride. Electrical work is currently under way to complete phase 1. Solar carport structures and modules in the remainder of the car park will follow in the coming months in phases 2 and 3.



A mid-season review of the policy has already been programmed in, and we will certainly be reporting back residents' concerns.

### Winter gritting

Once again the County Council is inviting gritting volunteers for the winter season 2023-2024. Under this scheme, parish councils decide which routes in their area are important to the local community and agree them with the County Council. Local volunteers then grit these as required in freezing weather.

Parish councils looking to join the scheme should submit their completed form by 31 October 2023. Each volunteer will need to submit a form, including those who have volunteered before. The form is required annually to ensure health and safety standards are being met. Paper forms are also available on request.

[http://cambridgeshire-](http://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Community_gritting_registration_form)

[self.achieveservice.com/service/Community\\_gritting\\_registration\\_form](http://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Community_gritting_registration_form)

Further information about the scheme is available online.

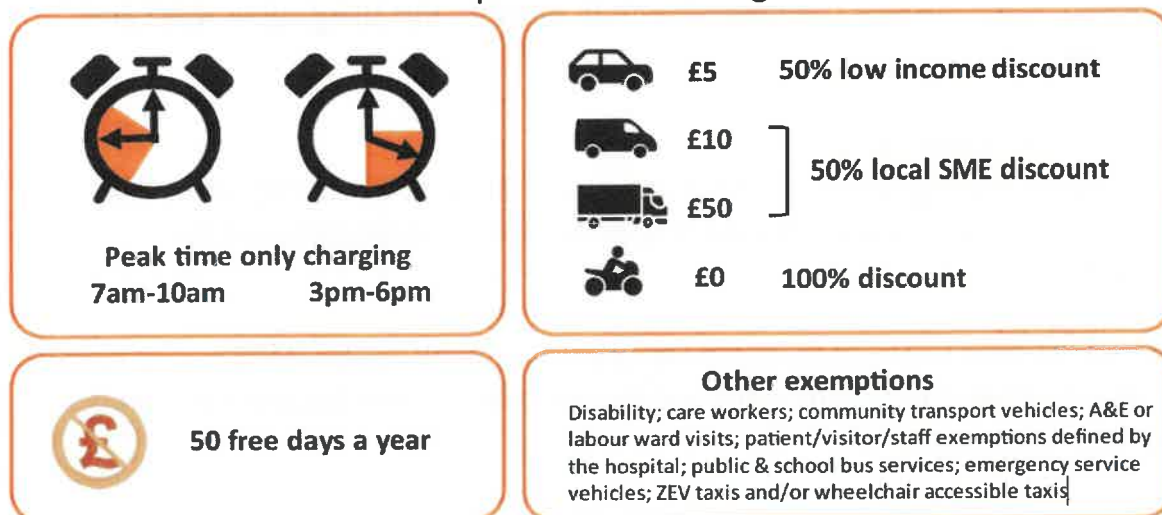
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths/help-with-gritting-and-clearing-snow/>

### Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)

Following last autumn's public consultation on the GCP's proposals for a Sustainable Travel Zone in Cambridge including a congestion charge, GCP officers have drawn up revisions to the proposals. These include

- A reduction in the hours of operation to morning and evening peaks only
- No charge for motorcycles
- A discount for local small and medium size businesses
- A discount for those on low incomes
- Fifty 'free days' per household

There would also be other exemptions as in the diagram below.



The timetable for consideration of these revised proposals is currently as follows.

- **Thursday 28 September:** meeting of the GCP Board
- **Wednesday 11 October:** special meeting of the County Council Highways & Transport Committee.

Note that Cambridgeshire County Council is the highways authority, and is the only body with the powers to agree to charge for use of the public highway.

However it has become clear that the proposals on the STZ do not have sufficient public or political support to pass through their next stages, so the priority for the County now is need to heed the very clear messages from the consultation on the need for better public transport, and work with partners at the CPCA, the constituent councils and government on a long term vision and stable funding for those urgently needed improvements.

### **20MPH proposal for Ely**

A consultation on a proposal for a 20MPH zone for the whole of Ely closes on Thursday 21 September. City of Ely Council agreed unanimously to apply to the County Council for this scheme, which we and our political colleagues in Ely campaigned for in the recent elections. We have been handing out literature in the centre of Ely to advise residents of the proposal and how they can comment. Ironically, a member of the District Council markets team threw one of our colleagues off the Market Square for distributing leaflets about the scheme, at exactly the same moment as the Leader of the District Council was speaking on the radio complaining that residents were not being given enough information about it.

Road safety is a priority for the County Council's joint administration. Other 20MPH areas recently installed are in Stilton, Godmanchester, St Neots, Woodhurst, Somersham, Great Gransden, Toft, Oakington, Barton, Hauxton, Melbourn, Sawston and Duxford. The work involves installing signs, lines and markings.

### **Pavement parking**

The Chair of the Highways and Transport committee at Cambridgeshire County Council is calling for pavement parking action from the Department for Transport.

Cllr Alex Beckett has written to the Department for Transport (DfT) asking for an update on what the current plans are for any changes in legislation and an estimated timescale.

In November 2020, the DfT ran a consultation asking whether a change in existing parking legislation should occur. The County Council responded and said it would like to see a ban on pavement parking being put in place, outside of London, with a new process for exempting areas from the ban without using the current Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process.

Cllr Beckett said:

“Parking on the pavement is a persistent problem and an ongoing concern for Cambridgeshire residents. It causes safety issues for everyone; it damages our pavements and prevents access for pedestrians and cyclists. There are many areas across our network where we would want to prevent pavement parking, particularly where a lack of enforcement is abused by anti-social drivers.

“Currently, we must make a TRO, which is expensive and time-consuming. We responded to this consultation almost three years ago, so I have written to the Rt. Hon. Mark Harper MP to ask for an update as we have not seen any action or changes.”

Districts with Civil Parking Enforcement can enforce against inconsiderate parking. It is likely that civil parking enforcement will soon be in place everywhere in Cambridgeshire except East Cambridgeshire.

---

## PENSIONS

The Government have issued a consultation on the future pooling of local government pension fund assets.

This consultation seeks views on proposals in 5 areas:

- Accelerate and expand pooling with a deadline for asset transition by March 2025.
- Require funds to have a plan to invest up to 5% of assets to support levelling up in the UK, as announced in the Levelling Up White Paper (LUWP). This consultation sets out in more detail how the Government proposes to implement this requirement and seeks views on its plans.
- An ambition to increase investment into high-growth companies via unlisted equity, including venture capital and growth equity. The government believes there are real opportunities in this area for institutional investors with a long-term outlook, such as the LGPS.
- Amendments to the LGPS's regulations to implement requirements on pension funds that use investment consultants.
  - A technical change to the definition of investments within LGPS regulations

The artificial date of March 2025 could be a problem as it could require forced sale of securities causing deficit issues.

Cambridgeshire LGPS already exceeds the 5% in unlisted equities, ironically and, Cambridgeshire is already committed to more than the maximum currently allowed!

The investment in unlisted companies is at much higher risk. While the returns can be high, so can the losses. It will also take a lot of work as direct investment in unlisted companies is a full-time activity.

The issue with consultants is that there are too few prepared to operate in the LGPS area. Aison is currently challenging the current advisors to provide good value for money, but with the highest quality advice.

The Government is keen to reduce the number of different investments in the pools as well as the number of pools, ie a restriction on local choice.

The desire to reduce the number of investments, reduce the number of pools, increase investments in private equity ironically puts the value of investments at risk. While Cambridgeshire is currently 165% funded and has kept premiums lower as a result, these could result in employers ending up paying higher contributions!

Locally, unlisted funds are invested via Foresight, which invests in local growing businesses and has strong ESG policies. The aim is to generate employment and growth, but with a clear exit route and an investment in Cambridge and Counties Bank.

Cost saving via shared services is clearly the right thing to do, but these plans could prevent local investment strategies and prevent some of the good work we are doing at the same time as increasing costs for the employers in the fund.



**Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts**  
County Councillors for Ely North and Ely South