



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.05 PM ON MONDAY,
21ST OCTOBER 2024 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr C Phillips, Mayor

Cllr R Trent

Cllr L Fox

Cllr Ní Dhónaill (arrived 7.07 pm)

Cllr R Ward (arrived 7.07 pm)

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr M Wade

Cllr K Holtzmann

Cllr S Sandhu

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr W Novick

Cllr R Denness

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

County Cllr A Whelan and County Cllr P Coutts

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Warman. The reason for her absence was accepted.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Phillips declared that under item 12 (iii), himself, Cllr Banyard and Cllr Denness, as the Council's representatives on the Ribe Association would declare an interest in relation to the matter regarding the artwork to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Ribe twinning. Cllr Ní Dhónaill would take over the Chair whilst this was being discussed.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AND
MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 9th September 2024 were proposed by Cllr Whelan that they be agreed and signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Fox and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123 and 2124 refer. There were no matters arising.

**5. UPDATE ON ANNUAL GRANT GIVEN TO ELY MUSEUM BY THE COUNCIL FROM ELIE
HUGHES, CURATOR OF ELY MUSEUM**

Ms Hughes gave a presentation on Ely Museum and gave some background information for newer members. She explained what the grant was used for and thanked the Council for their continued support.

Ms Hughes left the meeting at 7.15 pm.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman officially welcomed Cllr Sandhu to his first Full Council meeting and said he looked forward to working with him. He informed members that a past councillor, Mr Peter Harris had been awarded the Etheldreda medal. This will be presented to him at a service in the Cathedral on the 26th October and agreed to take to him best wishes and congratulations from the Council for his great community work. He also informed members that the Council was flying the flag for Black History month and felt that next year it should publicise this more.

7. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised as no members of the public were present.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan, which was presented by Cllr Coutts. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. Cllr C Whelan in her capacity as a District Councillor also produced a written report on matters regarding the District Council. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. No other District Councillors had anything additional to add.

9. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended March Town Council Civic Service; the Rotary Club's fireworks launch and cheque presentation; presentation of Summer Reading Programme certificates at Ely Library; Ely Sinfonia Concert at Ely Cathedral; fundraising talk for NSPCC at St Mary's Church; Ely Ribe AGM, Pantomime launch at Oliver Cromwell's House; gave a talk to Downham Society on the role of the Mayor; opening of Pizza GoGo on Broad Street; Apple and Harvest Festival day; Ramsey Civic Service; charity fundraising coffee morning at Fenland District Council and the Sing Choirs fundraiser at Ely Cathedral.

The Deputy Mayor had attended Prickwillow Engine Museum Celebration, the Underpass project opening; tea and talk NSPCC fundraiser; was Quizmaster at the Friends of Ely Library quiz and also attended the High Sheriff Justice Service.

County Cllr C Coutts left the meeting at 7.43 pm.

10. PLANNING

Cllr Morgan as the Planning Committee Chairman gave a report on the planning meeting which had been held prior to this meeting.

11. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Street Naming & Numbering:- addition of property name – Avalon, 86B Cambridge Road, Ely.

Thank you letter from City of Ely Swimming Club for grant from the Council.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE - No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting is on the 11th November 2024. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed members approve the recommendation from the CIL Sub-Committee minutes from the meeting held on the 30th September 2024, which had been tabled. This was for CIL funding for air conditioning units for the CCTV control room for £3875 and electrical work, between £450-£550. This was seconded by Cllr Moss-Eccardt and approved.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 28th October 2024.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED.....

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Morgan presented a report of a meeting held on the 15th October 2024, which was unanimously approved. Members had noted the PiPA audit reports and the summary plan prepared by the Deputy Clerk. Members unanimously agreed that the Deputy Clerk would work towards obtaining quotations for each play area for the 0-6 month phase. The renewal of the underlease for the Park play area to 2030 was unanimously approved. The anchor point fixings for the Christmas lights had undergone their annual testing and all had passed. Work for the Maltings had been approved for the sanding and polishing of the main hall floor and decoration of the green room and toilets. The kitchen and bar floors are planned for replacement. Quotations had been obtained for this and Cllr Morgan proposed the Council approve the cheapest of the three quotes. This was seconded by Cllr Moss-Eccardt and unanimously approved. Quotes are still being obtained for the main doors which will be funded from CIL. It was agreed Cllr Moss-Eccardt would proceed to make an application for the whole Maltings complex for it to be registered as a Community Asset. The request from the Ribe Association for funding for the planned artwork to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the twinning with Ribe was discussed at great length. Cllr Banyard updated members on the donation of a piece of material that could be used to create the artwork. If this is suitable it would lower the cost from £5000 to £3900. Members therefore considered approval of the reduced budget request, which would be paid as a grant for the project. This was proposed by Cllr Satwinder, seconded by Cllr Trent and agreed subject to the donated material being satisfactory. Cllrs Phillips, Banyard and Denness had declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the vote.

(iv) TOURISM – Cllr Banyard presented a report of a meeting held on the 14th October 2024, which was unanimously approved. The update on the service was noted. Cllr Banyard proposed the appointment of Mr M Routledge as the new Town Crier. This was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously approved. The request to change the financial regulation regarding contracts finder for the building work project for Oliver Cromwell’s House was discussed at great length. The Clerk confirmed the reasons for this request. Cllr Banyard proposed this change, which was seconded by Cllr Morgan, with a vote being undertaken with 10 for, 2 against and 2 abstentions. It was therefore approved.

13. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Members also noted the minutes of the AGM of the Ely Ribe Association, held on the 24th September 2024.

City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association – members noted the notes of meetings held on the 21st August 2024 and the 18th September 2024 An update on the transfer of the North of Ely allotments was given by Cllr Denness and the Clerk.

Ely Ribe Association – members noted the minutes of the AGM held on the 24th September 2024.

14. TO NOTE THE COMPLETION OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024 FROM PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP *

Members noted the completion of the limited assurance review of the Council’s annual return for the year ended 31st March 2024 by the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP. On the basis of their review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR were in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. The notice of completion was published on the Council’s website on the 5th September 2024.

15. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THE CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO THE SEND ENHANCED RESOURCE BASE (ERB) AT SPRING MEADOW INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL, ELY

Cllrs Banyard and Whelan had agreed to look at this consultation and presented comments for submission from the Council. These were that the Council would support the new opportunities at Spring Meadow but had concerns regarding adequate staffing levels; appropriate training for staff and would like to know what the catchment area would be. It was also asked as to where the children would move to once they reached age 9. Cllr Banyard agreed to submit the Council's comments.

16. TO CONSIDER IF THE COUNCIL WISHES TO HOLD A COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Members unanimously agreed they would like to hold a Community Safety Forum early next year. Further discussion will take place as to the issues to be covered.

17. FINANCE

Cllr Morgan proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Wade and unanimously approved.

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

ECDC	299.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2295.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	200.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	524.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	299.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2295.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	200.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	524.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	305.36	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	102.48	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	21.50	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	575.93	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	9828.37	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1337.41	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	703.52	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	106.68	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	772.90	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Supply Ltd	79.75	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	65.47	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	65.47	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1077.90	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	125.60	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	461.92	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	318.18	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	908.79	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	113.56	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	264.75	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	127.46	Paid by direct debit

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17. FINANCE CONTINUED

TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	20.73	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	393.00	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	8953.73	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1060.38	Paid by direct debit
C B Groundworks & Construction Ltd	2626.73	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Mobility Ltd	66.00	Paid by BACS
Darren Wailes	600.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	622.43	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	258.12	Paid by BACS
Cromwell Museum	20.00	Paid by BACS
Mile Tree Brewery	412.42	Paid by BACS
Yandell Publishing Ltd	540.00	Paid by BACS
Mrs K Evans	168.00	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	1418.48	Paid by BACS
Everbrite Home Improvements Ltd	16280.00	Paid by BACS
PPL PRS Ltd	7088.59	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	33.05	Paid by BACS
Ely Central Heating Services Ltd	288.00	Paid by BACS
Zaun Ltd	1068.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	111.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	3788.40	Paid by BACS
The Yoga in Healthcare Alliance	750.00	Paid by BACS
Cambs County Council	1120.00	Paid by BACS
City of Ely Amateur Swimming Club	1000.00	Paid by BACS
East Cambs Climate Action Network	500.00	Paid by BACS
Relate Cambridgeshire	450.00	Paid by BACS
1st Ely Scout Group Council	500.00	Paid by BACS
Savills (UK) Ltd	338.09	Paid by BACS
Glasdon UK Ltd	190.98	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Lt	1010.44	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	266.42	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	552.00	Paid by BACS
City of Ely Military Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Mobility Ltd	4074.00	Paid by BACS
N Booth	359.35	Paid by BACS
House of Marbles	311.04	Paid by BACS
Vix Technology UK Ltd	1290.30	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	133.20	Paid by BACS
Beau Business Media Ltd	360.00	Paid by BACS
Gem Heating Solutions Ltd	204.00	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	85.28	Paid by BACS
Warren Access	737.40	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	325.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	304.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	924.00	Paid by BACS
G & J Peck Ltd	67.95	Paid by BACS

17. FINANCE CONTINUED

LE Enterprices	245.00	Paid by BACS
Soham Pest Control	99.00	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	73.12	Paid by BACS
D O'Donovan	100.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department	226.80	Paid by BACS
E Long	120.90	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	171.04	Paid by BACS
Volumedia Ltd	395.00	Paid by BACS
Stuntney Village Hall Charity	2000.00	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials UK Ltd	504.19	Paid by BACS
PJP Cambridge Ltd	285.00	Paid by BACS
Splash & Dash Creations Ltd	510.00	Paid by BACS
RHS Horticultural Services	2102.40	Paid by BACS
Zurich Municipal	406.73	Paid by BACS
Yandell Publishing Ltd	272.16	Paid by BACS
Glasdon UK Ltd	285.00	Paid by BACS
Westair Reproductions Ltd	495.48	Paid by BACS
K Robinson	412.20	Paid by BACS
David J Richards Ltd	301.90	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	275.88	Paid by BACS
Cheffins	152.78	Paid by BACS
East Cambs Trading Co Ltd	1516.46	Paid by BACS
ECDC	70.00	Paid by BACS

The following invoices had been paid prior to the meeting

Cambs Artistic Roller Skating Club	750.00	114693
Rotary Club of Ely	500.00	114694
Re-Imagine Resource Centre CIC	750.00	114695
Friends of Ely St John's Primary School	300.00	114697
All In Sound	500.00	114698
Pride in Ely CIO	620.00	114699
The Kite Trust	750.00	114700
Ben's Yard Ely Park Run	300.00	114701
The Stained Glass Museum	500.00	114702
VCAEC	699.00	114703
Ely Repair Café	350.00	114704

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

C Phillips	92.35	114705
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	299.94	114706
L Pridmore	26.40	114707
CoolerAid Ltd	11.86	114708
City Cycle Centre	58.04	114709
Pen & Sword Books Ltd	340.87	114710
Otis Ltd	1733.04	114711
G & J Peck Ltd	203.86	114712
M Routledge	16.25	114713
Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	55.48	117714

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17. FINANCE CONTINUED

Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	59.10	114715
A Bennett	63.90	114716
ECDC	525.00	114717
Barclaycard	1586.93	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	495.06	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	114.69	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	115.49	Paid by direct debit
Babylon Arts	750.00	Paid by BACS
Cambs County Council	1120.00	Paid by BACS
Heightsafe Systems Ltd	660.00	Paid by BACS
H C Electrical	1287.49	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	147.12	Paid by BACS
Nisbets	153.14	Paid by BACS
The Elyi Magazine	175.00	Paid by BACS
Julia's Tearooms	319.20	Paid by BACS
Festive Lights Ltd	8471.02	Paid by BACS
N Booth	254.20	Paid by BACS
D Holmes	2160.00	Paid by BACS
ECDC	479.40	114717
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	928.47	114706
G & J Peck Ltd	57.45	114712
ECDC	1063.43	114717
Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	55.23	114718
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	506.65	114720
East Cambs Trading Co Ltd	1516.46	Paid by BACS
Churches Fire Safety Ltd	350.88	Paid by BACS
Jewson Ltd	21.36	Paid by BACS
Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	1727.58	114719

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 9th September 2024

Salaries and wages	£36,600.98	(Sept)	£37,877.77 (Oct)
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£11,162.72		£10,965.75
Pension fund payments	£12,170.68		£12,091.07

Councillors noted and approved the bank reconciliation for the period ending 31st August 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.56 pm.

Cllrs Piers Coutts and Alison Whelan

MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2024

ADULTS & HEALTH

New Director of Public Health

Cambridgeshire County Council has a new Director of Public Health, Sally Cartwright, who joins us from Luton in January. The Director of Public Health is responsible for identifying and improving the health and wellbeing of residents, reducing inequalities in health outcomes and protecting local communities from public health hazards, such as infectious diseases and environmental threats.

Vaccination update

Vaccinations are now available for eligible people against a range of conditions including Covid, flu, pneumonia, shingles, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Local GP practices are calling up eligible patients, or you can find out more at <https://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators/> and book with a local pharmacy or attend a convenient drop-in session without an appointment.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

School place appeal panel volunteers

Volunteers are urgently needed to hear appeals when children are not offered a place at their preferred school.

All parents or carers have the right to make an appeal to an independent appeal panel if their child is not offered a place at their preferred school. The role of the panel is to decide whether a child who has been refused a place by Cambridgeshire County Council should be given a place.

All parties involved must be given an appeal hearing that is transparent, accessible, independent and impartial. The appeal panel is independent of the local authority and its decisions are binding on all parties, unless overturned by the courts.

Volunteers will sit on the independent admission appeal panels and ensure that parents feel they have had a fair and independent hearing and have been given every opportunity to put their case and have been taken seriously.

Panel members must be able to listen to two sides of a case and weigh up evidence objectively and impartially. They must also be able to:

- Communicate effectively with a wide range of people

- Read and assess information and identify key points
- Listen to key information
- Ask questions to obtain information and clarify points being made
- Analyse information and use it to form opinions and conclusions
- Obtain and weigh up evidence to reach a decision
- Work as part of a team, take advice and develop their own skills

All volunteer Panel Members receive initial and annual refresher training and will be fully supported by the Appeals Service.

The time commitment depends on how much time volunteers are willing to give. While appeals are held throughout the year, the peak months are between April and July. The appeals are arranged either for half a day or a full day, and hearings are currently held online using Microsoft Teams.

Anyone interested in applying or who would like an informal chat about the role should contact clare.cronk@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

New homes for children with complex needs

Cambridgeshire County Council's Assets & Procurement Committee has selected two former farmhouses close to each other in Soham as a pilot project to increase the number of local places available for children and young people with complex needs. Both properties, currently vacant, are owned by the Council. They will be fully refurbished and a provider will be offered a contract for up to ten years to provide care services to best meet the needs of the children.

Locally and nationally there is a growing need for placements, with children having to be placed out of the county due to a lack of local places and a limited number of registered settings being available. This project offers an opportunity for local and more stable placements, as well as avoiding over £635,000 of costs each year on private placements.

Looked after children

The Council's residential strategy for looked after children will be referred to the Strategy, Resources & Performance Committee. There remains a shortage of care placements for looked after children across the country.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Climate change progress report and carbon footprint

The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee on Thursday 3 October received a progress report on its Climate Change & Environment Strategy, and the annual Carbon Footprint report.

This is the sixth annual Carbon Footprint report, and covers both the County Council's own carbon emissions, and those of Cambridgeshire as a whole.

Carbon emissions are classified into three 'scopes'.

- Scope 1 is direct emissions such as from gas or oil boilers and vehicles.
- Scope 2 is emissions from purchased electricity.
- Scope 3 is indirect emissions such as those of contractors and suppliers

The Council's Scope 1 and 2 are 42 per cent lower than in the baseline reporting year of 2018/19. Scope 2 is now always zero as the Council buys electricity through a zero-carbon contract. The Council's Scope 3 emissions for 2023/24 account for around 99 per cent of its carbon footprint, and were 111,307 tonnes CO₂e excluding the Council's rural estate—39 per cent lower than in 2018/19.

During 2023/24 the Council procured expert support to identify baseline carbon emissions for its rural estate, and more work needs to be done to agree an achievable target.

For Cambridgeshire as a whole, in 2022—the most recent available data—total greenhouse gas emissions were 6.45 million tonnes CO₂e, a three per cent fall from 2021. Transport (27 per cent) remains the highest emitting sector in the county, followed by land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) (23 per cent), agriculture (15 per cent) and domestic energy use (13 per cent).

The risk of not reaching the Council's carbon targets has reduced but still remains considerable. Delivery of these targets relies on collaborating with our partner organisations.

Newly discovered Roman town given heritage protection

A newly discovered Roman small town south of Great Staughton has been given heritage protection as a scheduled monument by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport on the advice of Historic England.

Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for maintaining information about scheduled monuments in the county, and requested that test trenches be dug at Great Staughton during archaeology prior to the submission of proposals for a solar farm. As a result of the findings, panels will not be installed on that part of the site.

This site is now Cambridgeshire's second largest Roman Scheduled Monument after the walled town of Durobrivae, five miles west of Peterborough.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Local Highways Improvement schemes

The Highways & Transport Committee meeting on Tuesday 1 October agreed which Local Highways Improvement (LHI) bids were approved for the coming year. These are divided into complex and non-complex schemes.

Complex schemes

In East Cambridgeshire the complex schemes recommended for approval are

- Improvements to the crossing point at the B1102 crossroads (Lode)
- A speed limit change on Malting End Road and Woodditton Road (Kirtling)
- Speed reducing measures on Mildenhall Road (Fordham)

A further six schemes were not recommended because the first three schemes would use up all this year's available budget for complex schemes in East Cambridgeshire. These included two schemes in Ely – a speed reduction scheme on the A142 near Ben's Yard, and a new pedestrian crossing on Cam Drive – and schemes in Sutton, Haddenham, Kennett, and Littleport also missed out.

Non-complex schemes

The non-complex schemes recommended for approval are

- Signing and road marking on Brinkley Road (Brinkley)
- An options report for the A1123 near Wilburton (Wilburton)
- Signing and road marking on Dane Hill Road (Kennett)
- Buffer zones on Bradley Road (Burrough Green)
- Mobile speed activated signs (Coveney)
- Parking restrictions such as double yellow lines or controlled parking on Bell Road, Tunbridge Lane and High Street (Bottisham)

A further three schemes—in Witchford, Wicken, and Chippenham—were not recommended for lack of funding.

Unfortunately the Local Highways Improvement process, though extremely popular, is very much a lottery, depending on officer or councillor scoring and the number of applications in any given year.

This has been raised with officers and they have now proposed that any unsuccessful complex schemes like Ely's two are also added to the transport planning database for prioritisation through the council's Delivering Transport Strategy Aims programme. Unfortunately, as officers admit, 'this is also a process with a limited amount of funding which is competitively prioritised'.

Next year's application round

The application window for the next LHI application round will be as follows.

- Application window opens: Friday 1 November 2024
- Application window closes: Friday 10 January 2025
- Feasibility studies undertaken: February—May 2025
- Panel meetings: June—July 2025
- Report to committee including prioritised list for approval: October 2025

20MPH schemes

Local 20MPH schemes still prove hugely popular, with 91 schemes submitted by local communities for consideration, and a further eleven withdrawn for consideration under other proposals.

Only eight of the 91 schemes are recommended to the Highways & Transport Committee on Tuesday 1 October for implementation this coming year, again for lack of funding:

- Waterbeach (village-wide)
- Stow cum Quy (village-wide)
- Elm (village-wide)
- Bottisham (village-wide)
- Little Paxton (village-wide)
- Earith (majority of village)
- Swavesey (majority of village)
- Steeple Morden (central area of village)

Applications which were unsuccessful this time included one by Stuntney Village Council.

A petition was brought to the County Council's Highways & Transport Committee on Tuesday 1 October asking for reconsideration of the 20MPH installation in Ely.

Mill Road (Cambridge) closure

A special meeting of the Highways & Transport Committee took place on Friday 4 October to determine afresh the application for a Traffic Regulation Order. This agreed to restrict traffic over the bridge by motor vehicles, except local buses, taxis, Private Hire Vehicles, blue badge holders' registered vehicles, and other authorised vehicles. Access will be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians.

The Mill Road decision quashed by the court in August, and the statutory consultation relating to it, was not taken into account, and the new application was determined by a different group of councillors.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has now been released from the 'Best Value Notice' placed on it in January 2023 as the Government has recognised the improvement in the organisation.

The Authority's Transport & Infrastructure Committee is recommending that the Board allow older people and those with disabilities to use their bus passes before the current 9:30AM start.

The new Tiger Pass offers bus travel for £1 per journey for those aged up to 25. Details of how to apply for the new pass can be found at <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare/>

The Vision Zero road safety project is also being revived. Its aims are to reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads and the social and financial impact of this, and to develop financially sustainable models of road safety activity. The original prospectus in 2020 aimed for zero killed or seriously injured by 2040 though this seems unlikely to be met.

A reminder that the Combined Authority's consultation on bus franchising continues until 20 November. Short and long questionnaires can be found at <https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-franchising-consultation/>

Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

County Councillors for Ely North and Ely South

District Councillors Report for City of Ely Council 21st October 2024 – Christine Whelan

Operational Services 23rd September

WASTE SERVICE CHANGES

At its meeting on Monday 23 September the District Council's Operational Services Committee agreed a number of sweeping changes to its waste collection arrangements, to comply with incoming Government legislation.

the following changes will take effect by early 2026.

- Weekly food waste collection in a separate container.
- Black sacks to be replaced by a 180 litre wheeled bin collected fortnightly
- Ending the annual subscription charge for a second green bin.
- Removing the one-off charge for an extra blue bin.

The Council will keep its current free fortnightly garden waste collection service, suspended for six weeks during winter and Christmas catch up period.

The revised service is currently estimated to cost an extra £820,729, but more information will be available nearer the time, about the 'new burdens' funding the council may receive from Government, and the financing of the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. This will transfer to the producer of waste packaging the responsibility for managing the waste throughout its life.

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that it should continue to procure waste collection and street cleaning services from its wholly-owned company ECSS.

Meanwhile, 152 fly tips were reported in the first quarter of 2024/25. Only 78 per cent were removed within two working days, against a target of 98 per cent.

Meeting can be viewed here

[Operational Services Committee - 4.30pm Monday 23 September 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

Finance and Assets Meeting 26th September

CREMATORIUM COSTS ESCALATE

Council officers now predict an 'overall increase in costs' for the planned crematorium at Mepal, according to reports presented to the Finance & Assets Committee on 26 September. Councillors were asked just to 'note' the predicted rise, and an attempt by Lorna and colleagues to refer the issue to the Full Council meeting on 17 October was rejected by the Conservative group.

The detail of the increased costs was kept in a confidential report, but published papers state that the rise is 'largely made up of a gap in the projects contingency budget and an increase in build costs'.

The escalating costs for the crematorium, already predicted to cost over £9 million, have substantial implications for the project, and Lorna and Cllr Alison Whelan therefore proposed a motion to refer the matter to all twenty-eight councillors at their next full meeting on 17 October. The proposal was defeated by five Lib Dem votes to six Conservative ones.

NET ZERO VILLAGES GRANTS

The Council has received £167,737 from the Combined Authority under its Net Zero Villages programme. The money will be distributed in the form of grants to local communities in East Cambridgeshire, for projects which

- Tackle energy use and/or support energy efficiency or generation retrofit to a community building; or
- Enable access to public transport or access to local services through low carbon transport; or
- Offer nature based solutions to tackle overheating of community buildings.

The minimum single grant award is £5,000, and the maximum is £30,000. Applications will open as soon as the fund is launched, and the decision will be made in three phases.

1. Applications by 31 December 2024 will be considered and funds set aside for successful projects by 31 January 2025.
2. Applications received in January 2025 will be considered in February 2025.
3. Applications received in February 2025 will be considered in March 2025.

However, if funds have been fully allocated by the end of the first or second phases, then applications received in the subsequent phase will still be considered but only for placing on a reserve list should an already agreed project no longer is to be taken forward. Applicants are therefore advised to get their project in early (by 31 December if possible) in order to have the greatest chance of receiving funding.

Funding will be distributed from March 2025. Funding might be distributed on a phased basis, linked to progress with a project. Funding in advance of spend is possible, subject to safeguards for return of any unspent funds. No spend can occur after 28 February 2026.

The fund will be formally launched in the near future, with the full criteria and other requirements. Queries about the scheme can be sent to the Council at netzerovillages@eastcambs.gov.uk

Meeting can be viewed here

[Finance and Assets Committee 4.30pm Thursday 26th September 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

Unfortunately this only applies to villages and not The City council or Town Councils.

Full Council Meeting 17th October 2024 6pm

There were no public questions or petitions presented.

2 motions were presented to the council

The first one by the ruling group concerning the Winter Fuel Cuts for pensioners.

This motion was passed unanimously with Councillor Charlotte Cane MP unable to vote on this as she had already voted in parliament to ban the cuts on the Winter fuel allowance.

The 2nd Motion was proposed by Cllr Kathrin Holzmann about the discharging of sea toilets in our rivers.

The motion was again voted for unanimously by all councillors present.

Full details of these motions can be found on [Full Council Agenda \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](#)

The new proposal for the waste collections was presented to the council for approval and this passed.

[Agenda Item 9 - Appendix B.pdf \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](#)

The paper for the proposal of a new Local Plan was discussed.

This is found on this document

[East Cambridgeshire Local Plan: Commencement. Full Council Report \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](#)

There was an amendment put forward from the opposition group to equalised the numbers of the working party to 3 per group and not the 3 to 2 as was proposed by the administration. This has been done with other working parties on the council previously.

This amendment was not passed with the leader of the Council stating that this wasn't needed.

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan was passed.

Cheveley Neighbourhood Plan was passed.

Full viewing of the meeting can be done on the link below.

[Council Meeting - 6pm Thursday 17th October 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)