

# Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

## MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2022

---

### Special council meeting

Members of the ruling Conservative group have called a special meeting for the evening of Thursday 15 December at 5:30PM to consider making a Council response to the Greater Cambridge Partnership's *Making Connections 2022* consultation on bus improvements and congestion charging. This is, to say the least, unusual—most responses to consultations are drafted by officers and circulated by email for comment.

---

### Waste performance report

The Operational Services Committee received the Q1 (April to June) performance report on waste and street cleansing services—a reminder of how long it took the Council to get to grips with the problems triggered by the reconfiguration of collection rounds.

- Overall performance of the waste collection service: target 90 per cent, quarterly performance 33 per cent
- Overall performance of the street cleansing service: target 90 per cent, quarterly performance 21 per cent

Even by Q2 (July to September) waste collection performance had only recovered to 58 per cent against a target of 90 per cent, and street cleansing to 48 per cent also against a target of 90 per cent.

---

### Housing in East Cambridgeshire

A report to the Operational Services Committee on the condition of housing in East Cambridgeshire has produced some interesting headline findings.

- There are 37,556 dwellings in East Cambridgeshire. 72 per cent are owner occupied, 15 per cent private rented, and 13 per cent social rented.
- 5,338 dwellings in the private sector have Category 1 Housing Health and Safety Rating System hazards. This equates to 16 per cent of properties.
- 951 dwellings in the private rented sector have category 1 HHSRS hazards. This equates to 17 per cent of properties in the private rented sector.
- The highest concentrations of all HHSRS hazards in the private sector are found in the wards of Downham, Haddenham and Woodditton.
- The highest concentrations of fuel poverty (Low Income High Costs definition) in the private sector are found in the wards of Woodditton,

Haddenham and Downham; and for excess cold the highest concentrations are in Downham, Haddenham and Woodditton.

- The average Simple SAP rating for all private sector dwellings in East Cambridgeshire is 58, which is worse than both England (60) and East of England (60). For owner occupied stock the figure is 57 and for private rented stock it is 61.
- The total cost of mitigating category 1 hazards in East Cambridgeshire's private sector stock is estimated to be £20 million—16.5 million in the owner-occupied sector, and £3.6 million in the private rented sector.
- 10.7 per cent (3,487) of private sector dwellings, and 8.6 per cent (472) of private rented dwellings in East Cambridgeshire are estimated to have an EPC rating (based on Simple SAP) below band E.
- In the private sector stock, there are an estimated 4,680 dwellings with un-insulated cavity walls, and 3,251 dwellings with less than 100mm of loft insulation.
- Analysis of the energy efficiency variables indicates that the owner-occupied stock has the highest average figures for the majority of variables (Simple CO<sub>2</sub>, energy and heat demand).

The key objectives of the policy are to

- Enable elderly, vulnerable and disabled people to live in comfort and security in their homes.
- Increase the proportion of private sector housing that is of a decent standard, with a focus on those that are occupied by vulnerable households.
- Reduce fuel poverty.
- Support initiatives to bring long term empty homes back into use.
- Provide accessible information to the public to enable them to obtain assistance and advice on all matters around housing disrepair and energy efficiency.

The report concludes: "It is therefore important for East Cambridgeshire to develop suitable targeted strategies, policies and schemes to tackle these issues, working proactively with different departments and partner organisations, using enforcement action, where appropriate."

---

## **Planning application updates**

### [Land adjacent 43 Mepal Road, Sutton 22/00507/RMM](#)

The Linden / Vistry Phase 2 development at Mepal Road goes to the Planning Committee on Wednesday 7 December with a recommendation to approve.

### [Garden Close Sutton 22/00057/RMM](#)

No further updates.

## Elean Business Park 22/00580/RMM

No further updates.

---

### **Biodiversity Net Gain**

The Council's Finance & Assets Committee agreed unanimously last month a new *Interim Nature Recovery Network for East Cambridgeshire* report and *Biodiversity Net Gain* document.

The former document identifies a number of priority areas for biodiversity, namely Wicken Fen, the Ouse Washes and surrounds, Newmarket chalk grasslands, Chippenham Fen and River Snail, Breckland Edge, Soham grasslands, Boulder Clay woodlands, Chettisham Meadows to Ely North Country Park, and the river corridors of the Great Ouse, Cam, Lark, Little Ouse, and Soham Lode.

The latter document is an interim working document prior to the implementation by the Government of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain expected in late 2023.

---

### **Public conveniences**

The Council rejected our proposals several months ago on fully accessible Changing Places toilets. However, after being named and shamed by the Government in its most recent round of Changing Places funding, the Council finally submitted bids for facilities in Ely, Soham and Littleport.

Furthermore, the Council did decide to carry out an audit of its existing (non Changing Places) disability access toilets, and identified and carry out a number of improvements. Holding the powers to be to account has its place!

---

### **Growth & Infrastructure Fund and CIL funding**

A recent parish poll in Stretham resulted in a two-to-one majority for a pause on the parish council's plans for a multi-million pound community centre, until the elections in May next year. The parish council told the District Council's Finance & Assets Committee it was considering ignoring the outcome of the poll, and the District Council did likewise and awarded the scheme almost £1.5M in funding.

---

### **Internal Drainage Board**

The Council's Finance & Assets Committee appointed parish councillor Howard Palmer to the Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board.

---

## Meet your councillors

- Monday 9 January, 6:30-7:30PM
- Monday 6 February, 6:30-7:30PM
- Monday 6 March, 6:30-7:30PM

All in the Community Room at Sutton School. Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email, Facebook, or phone.

---

A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all our residents.



**Cllr Lorna Dupré**

**Cllr Mark Inskip**

District Councillors for the Sutton ward