

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

'Urgent' additional spend on crematorium for Mepal

The ruling group on East Cambridgeshire District Council used special 'urgency' procedures to give themselves permission to spend an additional £30,000 on 'more detailed advice relating to the application of VAT on the capital build and proposals for the delivery model of the facility should it get approval'. We will be keeping a close eye on the VAT budget lines in the proposal they bring to the Council's Finance & Assets Committee meeting later this month.

Cambridge Sustainable Travel Zone

The Greater Cambridge Partnership's Joint Assembly met on Thursday 7 September. The intention was for the Assembly to comment on the revised proposals for the Cambridge 'Sustainable Travel Zone' to be presented to the Greater Cambridge Partnership Board on Thursday 28 September.

However, in the interim it was revealed that the ruling Liberal Democrat group on South Cambridgeshire District Council had decided it did not wish to pursue the proposals, and a statement from the ruling Labour group on Cambridge City Council followed soon after. The Joint Assembly therefore did not discuss the revised proposals, and it is highly likely they will no longer be progressed.

Planning

Garden Close Sutton

As expected, Abbey Homes have submitted yet another 'reserved matters' application for the details of their plans for Garden Close, while at the same time appealing against the refusal of their most recent previous application. This will create the same confusion as happened with the outline application, when Endurance Estates did the same thing.

- Application reference 23/00870/RMM
- Appeal reference 23/00013/REFAPP

Church Farm Close Wentworth

A retrospective application for change of use of paddock land to residential garden and siting of domestic garden structures has been approved by the Planning Committee.

Bin bags and waste collection calendars

The next supply of black sacks for residual waste will be delivered to households by the end of October. Residents will then have until the end of November to report any sacks not received.

The waste and recycling collection calendar is being delivered separately by the recycling crews during the first two weeks of September.

Waste and street cleaning performance

The Council's performance in waste collection and street cleaning remained well below target for the first quarter of the council year, according to a report to the Council's Operational Services Committee.

- 57 black sacks per 100,000 were missed, against a target of 15.
- 77 blue bins per 100,000 were missed, against a target of 30.
- And 98 green bins per 100,000 were missed, against a target of 30.

The street cleaning service was similarly behind, with only 41 per cent of clean streets graded A on random inspection, against a target of 95 per cent, and 8 per cent of streets graded C or below for litter against a target of 1 per cent.

59 per cent of fly tipped waste was removed within two days, against a target of 98 per cent.

Oil fuel for new waste vehicles now too expensive

After much publicity about the decision to buy new waste vehicles capable of running on hydrotreated vegetable oil (*Council to invest in new veg-fuelled recycling vehicles*) the Council has now found that the oil is far more expensive than fossil fuels so they will continue to run on diesel.

A report to the Council's Operational Services Committee says that at present the cost of hydrotreated vegetable oil is running at between £1.65 and £1.92 per litre. East Cambs Street Scene is currently paying an average of £1.15 per litre for diesel.

Enforcement policies

The Council's Operational Services Committee on Monday 18 September is set to consider a suite of enforcement policies, on food safety, health and safety, and environmental crime.

Taxi CCTV

The Council's Licensing Committee has decided not to require CCTV to be installed in all licensed vehicles (taxis and private hire vehicles). Instead it has decided to update the policy wording of the current CCTV conditions in the Council's taxi licensing policy as follows.

Where CCTV is installed in a **licenced** vehicle **or a licenced operator base**, the Licensee must ensure that a sign is displayed in a prominent position in the vehicle **or base** so that passengers / **customers** are made aware of the presence of the camera.

The Licensee shall ensure **they, and any** CCTV system **installed in a licenced vehicle or operator base, complies** with data protection laws **and relevant codes of practice** and any cameras **in a licenced vehicle** are mounted at a level equal to or greater than the level of the dashboard, and directed at face height.

It will be a requirement to provide footage captured by the camera(s) to an officer of the council, or Police providing any such request is lawfully made.

Polling review

The district council will be undertaking its four-year review of its polling districts, polling places and polling stations next month. A consultation document will be sent out to relevant organisations and bodies, and published on the council's website. This will set out proposals relating to the use, or otherwise, of polling places and polling stations, as well as any potential changes to polling districts.

As well as those organisations consulted, any member of the public or any other organisation is welcome to make comments or representations. The council's website will include all the relevant information, with details on how to respond.

If you have any comments you would like to feed into this review please email elections@eastcambs.gov.uk

Funding reminder

- Pride of Place grant (closes 30 September 2024 or until used up)
www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/pride-place-grant

Meet your councillors

Our next surgeries are

- Monday 2 October, 6:30-7:30PM
- Monday 6 November, 6:30-7:30PM

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

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District Councillors for the Sutton ward