

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2026

WASTE SERVICE UPDATE

New black wheeled bins and food caddies are now arriving at residents' homes across East Cambridgeshire, as part of national changes to help people reduce waste and recycle more.

Each household will get one new black wheeled bin, which is replacing the traditional black sacks, and will be collected every two weeks. Residents will also receive a smaller green food caddy to keep somewhere handy in their kitchen, and a larger caddy for food waste which will be collected weekly.

From 1 June, soft plastics including bubble wrap, food packaging and carrier bags can also be put in with household recycling. Free garden waste collections will continue, and residents should no longer put food waste in their green-lidded bin, which will be for garden waste only.

Residents who live in properties that cannot accommodate the bins will be provided with purple bags for anything that cannot be recycled. All new bins will be delivered in time for the new service to start from 1 June. The council will update its Facebook pages and website with details of when each town or village can expect to receive their new bins. Attached to each bin is an information pack for residents and a calendar to explain when the new service will start and which bins to put out on which day.

Residents are being asked not to use the new bins until the service starts from 1 June. Black wheeled bins and food caddies put out before these dates will not be collected because they require specialised vehicles which will not start operating until 1 June.

The following areas will have a new bin day from 1 June:

- **MONDAY** Isleham, Queen Adelaide, Soham Fen
- **TUESDAY** Aldreth, Bottisham, Coveney, Haddenham, Little Downham, Little Thetford, Lode, Lode Fen, Longmeadow, Mepal, Pymoor, Six Mile Bottom, Stretham, Wilburton
- **WEDNESDAY** Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior
- **THURSDAY** Littleport and Littleport Fen

All other collection days remain unchanged.

ANTI-SOCIAL DRIVING

Proposals for a Public Spaces Protection Order to clamp down on anti-social driving were agreed by the council's Operational Services Committee on Monday 23 March, with a public consultation exercise showing strong support. Lorna asked about the date for implementation and was told this would be summer this year.

HIVE CONTRACT EXTENSION

The council has awarded GLL a five year extension to its contract to manage The Hive Leisure Centre on the A10 near Ely. The end date will now be amended from 2030 to 2035.

RIVER CLOSE MEPAL

The district council's Finance & Assets Committee has agreed to grant a licence to Mepal Pantry for use of the allotment land next to 10 River Close Mepal to grow produce to directly support the local community the Pantry currently serves. This is great news for Mepal Pantry and the local community.

(We were amused at the council's admission in the committee report that it had been collecting rent from the previous tenant while not being aware that it was the owner of the land.)

CIL GRANT FUNDING SCHEMES

The council will open two funds on 13 April, using money from Community Infrastructure Levy receipts. These will be for

- Local infrastructure such as community centres, village halls and sports centres
- Inclusive play and open spaces

Applicant organisations must have a constitution or set of rules which define their aims, objectives, and operational and governance procedures. A minimum of ten per cent match funding will be required.

UPDATE ON AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the dire external audit report received in January, the council has appointed an interim Technical Accountant and a Principal Accountant.

The Principal Accountant will review the Fixed Asset Register to ensure that asset classifications, system settings and depreciation calculations are correctly

configured. Additional review procedures have been introduced to ensure inter-company balances and transactions are eliminated correctly.

The Finance Team will continue to work with the external auditors to ensure that all relevant information relating to capital grants is clearly documented and available to support the audit process.

Finance officers will prepare explanations for material movements in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet. Year-end cash reconciliation processes have been strengthened. The classification of cash and investments has been reviewed to ensure compliance with accounting standards. And control account mapping has been reviewed and corrected.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

AWAITING CONSIDERATION OR DECISION

Applications in the Sutton ward which are still awaiting consideration include

Mepal

- **17 Bridge Road, Mepal:** conversion, repair and partial demolition of redundant agricultural storage structures and elements of new build to create leisure and accommodation facility (25/00018/FUL)
- **Three Pickerels, Mepal:** single storey function room within garden area to replace temporary marquee (25/01303/FUL)
- **26 Chestnut Way, Mepal:** removal of existing fence and replacement with new close-boarded timber fence (26/00185/CLP)

Sutton

- **Garden Close, Sutton:** modification of planning obligation 17/01445/OUM affordable housing requirement (25/01097/MPO)
- **Garden Close, Sutton:** variation of approved plans 22/00057/RMM including removal of affordable housing (25/00667/VARM)
- **35 High Street, Sutton:** demolish single storey store and part boundary wall, construct replacement single story store, extend existing drop kerb to provide two off-street parking spaces (26/00214/FUL)
- **104 High Street, Sutton:** demolition of existing garage and erection of five dwellings (25/01016/OUT)
- **Meadlands Farm, Sutton Gault:** replacement dwelling (25/01258/FUL)
- **SE of 107 The Row, Sutton:** proposed lake and associated works (25/00114/FUL)

Witcham

- **The Bungalow, Hive Road, Witcham:** single storey side extensions and installation of rooflights and PV panels (26/00194/FUL)

- **The Bungalow, Hive Road, Witcham:** conversion from office to residential (26/00192/ERN)
- **7 High Street, Witcham:** temporary siting of caravan / static caravan (26/00172/CLP)

The Garden Close applicants have agreed an extension of time to Friday 8 May, in order to prepare a proposal for a 'commuted sum' to be paid by them to the council as an alternative to providing affordable housing on site. The planning department will then consider whether this would be sufficient to enable it to recommend approval of the application to remove the affordable housing.

DECIDED

Applications in the Sutton ward which have recently been decided include

- **Site between 8 and 14 Bridge Road, Mepal:** subdivision of existing horticultural site to create single self-build residential plot, retaining remainder for horticultural use (25/00421/OUT) **PERMITTED**
- **3 School Lane, Mepal:** construction of self-build dwelling and extension to garden (25/01344/FUL) **PERMITTED**
- **78C High Street, Sutton:** change of use from office to dwelling (26/00008/ERN) **PERMITTED**

Applicants have lodged an appeal against the council's refusal of permission for demolition of a garage and replacement with a two-storey, two-bedroom dwelling with associated private amenity, waste storage, and car / cycle parking.

VISTRY PHASE 2

Lorna has met with Vistry, the county council and others to discuss water management on and around the Phase 2 site at the top of Mepal Road.

APRIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday 1 April: Planning Committee

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

We will be at Joy Bistro, 65 High Street, Sutton on Monday 27 April and Monday 1 June at 6:30-7:30PM (both dates changed from the usual first Monday because of Easter and the spring Bank Holiday). Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email, Facebook, or phone.

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District Councillors for the Sutton ward
(Mepal, Sutton, Wentworth, and Witcham)