

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2026

UPDATE ON NEW WASTE COLLECTION PLANS

Plans are now well under way for a new, weekly food waste service and wheeled bins to replace black bags for non-recyclable waste. The majority of the containers are already on site and are being delivered, with the remainder on their way in time for new services to start on 1 June.

Crews are currently carrying out dry runs, to familiarise themselves with the new routes. Some missed collections are bound to occur initially (many of us will remember when this happened after collection rounds were changed a few years ago). To counter this, mop-up crews will be in place to address and clear any missed collections as quickly as possible.

The new black bins and food waste caddies are being unloaded at the depot and delivered to residents by contractors Kee Environmental at a rate of around 1200 properties a day. Flats and communal properties will receive their bins in the week immediately before the new service is due to begin, so that the existing bins can be emptied and removed. Each household is also supplied with an information pack, covering key issues for the new service.

Large numbers of residents have requested additional or larger bins and council officers are working through these requests in order of receipt.

COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS OPEN

Grants of up to £1,000 are now available to community groups from the Community Fund.

The money can be spent on new or existing projects designed to improve the quality of life for residents in East Cambridgeshire. Up to 75 per cent of the project costs can be sought, with a minimum grant of £250 and a maximum grant of £1,000. Applicants will need to demonstrate they have 25 per cent of the total project cost as cash or as in-kind match funding. Only one grant per group or organisation may be awarded in any financial year (April to March).

<https://eastcamb.gov.uk/services/community-safety-and-wellbeing/grants-and-community-projects/community-fund>

Other live grant schemes

A reminder that, as we reported last month, the Local Infrastructure Fund and Inclusive Plan and Open Spaces Fund are also currently open to applications.

LAND AT ANGEL DROVE ELY

A planning application (26/00211/ESF) has been submitted for a warehouse with ancillary office and welfare, associated parking, van storage, access, landscaping, lighting and associated services and infrastructure.



The development of over thirteen hectares would include 193 car parking spaces and 705 van storage spaces. City of Ely Council has recommended that the plans be refused on grounds of increased congestion and 'out of scale' design.

NEW RULES FOR PLANNING APPEALS

The Government has laid down new regulations for managing planning appeals carried out by written representation (rather than an oral hearing or inquiry).

Under the new process, the majority of written representation appeals will accept only the evidence put before the local planning authority during application. Material not submitted as part of the process of the original planning application will not be admissible.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/simpler-faster-planning-appeals-are-coming>

AFFORDABLE HOMES AND GARDEN CLOSE

Abbey Homes have claimed that it is not viable for them to provide the required proportion of affordable homes on the land behind Garden Close. Two alternatives are under consideration at the time of writing.

- four 'First Homes' on site
- payment of a 'commuted sum' of £310,000 to provide affordable housing somewhere else

The assessment of Bespoke Property Consultants is that 'both offers are acceptable, albeit the commuted sum position does not deliver a developers return that is within the NPPG [National Planning Policy Guidance] guidance of between 15% and 20%'.

The 'First Homes' offer would deliver a 15.65% return, and the commuted sum would deliver a return of 14.67%. Our view is that neither option is adequate.

<https://www.gov.uk/first-homes-scheme>

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

AWAITING CONSIDERATION OR DECISION

Applications in the Sutton ward awaiting consideration or determination include

Mepal

- **17 Bridge Road, Mepal:** conservation, 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)

Sutton

- **Garden Close:** modification of planning obligation 17/01445/OUM affordable housing requirement (25/01097/MPO) (see above)
- **Garden Close:** variation of approved plans 22/00057/RMM including removal of affordable housing (25/00667/VARM) (see above)
- **Meadlands Farm, Sutton Gault:** replacement dwelling (25/01258/FUL)
- **SE of 107 The Row:** proposed lake and associated works (25/00114/FUL)
- **3 Victoria Place:** two-storey side and front extension, following demolition of garage; new single storey porch and additional external works (26/00324/FUL)
- **15 Painters Lane:** single storey extension to side and rear, with external alterations including removal of chimneys (26/00352/FUL)
- **Anson Packaging, Elean Business Park:** to retain portacabins (26/00363/FUL)
- **22A High Street:** ground floor internal alterations and addition of window (26/00248/LBC)

Witcham

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

DECIDED

Applications in the Sutton ward which have recently been decided include

- **26 Chestnut Way, Mepal:** removal of existing fence and replacement with new close-boarded timber fence (26/00185/CLP) **REFUSED**
- **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) **PERMITTED**
- **104 High Street:** demolition of existing garage and erection of five dwellings (25/01016/OUT) **PERMITTED**
- **The Bungalow, Hive Road, Witcham:** conversion from office to residential (26/00195/ERN) **REFUSED**

The application for temporary siting of caravan / static caravan (26/00172/CLP) at 7 High Street, Witcham has been withdrawn.

INDUCTION OF NEW RECTOR

We were delighted to attend the institution and induction of The Revd Christopher Hollingshurst as our new Rector. We wish him well in his new role, and look forward to working with him.

MAY MEETINGS

- Wednesday 6 May: Planning Committee
- Thursday 21 May: Annual Council

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

We will be at Joy Bistro, 65 High Street, Sutton on Monday 1 June and Monday 6 July at 6:30-7:30PM. 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)