District Councillors Report to Parishes

Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Horningsea, Stow-Cum-Quy, Teversham, Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham and Six-Mile-Bottom.

November 2026

Warm Home Discount Scheme for Winter 2026 to 2027

The Warm Home Discount (WHD) helpline (0800 030 9322) is open for calls from 19 October. The WHD provides a £150 rebate on electricity bills for eligible low-income households in Great Britain. Eligibility is based on a household's circumstances on the qualification date (23 August 2026). To qualify, the benefit recipient, their partner or legal representative, must be named on an electricity account with a participating supplier on that date and meet the scheme's eligibility criteria. In England and Wales, households may be eligible if they receive certain means-tested benefits. Letters will be sent to eligible and potentially eligible households by January 2027 with more information.

Please visit the Warm Home Discount Scheme webpage on GOV.UK for more information.

Advice to residents on disposal of Halloween pumpkins

There are several options available to residents, and we are communicating these in line with the waste hierarchy and considering that not all households are receiving weekly food waste collections yet, as well as the bulky nature of pumpkins. As we are keen to maximise the number of pumpkins sent to Anaerobic Digestion and recognise that residents' caddies have a limited capacity, we will be carrying out a special collection of pumpkins for one week only, from 3 to 6 November. During this week households may present ONE carrier bag containing pumpkin next to their Food Waste Caddy, which will be collected by Food Waste crews.

The "Pumpkin Waste Hierarchy" is as follows:

1. Eat it!
2. Home compost it
3. Cut it up and add it to your Food Waste Caddy
4. Put it in a carrier bag and leave it next to your Food Waste Caddy on your collection day during week beginning 2 November
5. If your weekly food waste collections have not started, put it in your Green Bin with garden waste
6. If none of the above options are available, put it in your Black Bin. It is NOT recommended to leave pumpkins out for wildlife to eat as this can make some animals such as hedgehogs sick.

Brewboard applies for bar licence at Springstead Village

Brewboard Ltd has applied for a premises licence for a new bar in the Sales and Marketing Suite at Springstead Village, Cherry Hinton Road, Teversham. The proposed bar would occupy the ground floor and an adjoining outdoor customer area. The application seeks permission for alcohol sales, including takeaways, and live and recorded music.

Residents wishing to support or oppose the application must submit written comments to South Cambridgeshire District Council **by 5 November 2026**. Comments can be emailed to licensing@scambs.gov.uk and should include your name and address. Full details and a representation form are on the council's licensing public notices webpage.

Government action on 'fleecehold' and estate management

There has been further progress on Government plans to tackle so-called **"fleecehold" estates**. Housing Minister Matthew Pennycook recently told Parliament that **"relief is on the way"** for freeholders facing unfair management charges and said privately managed estates are at the heart of many of the problems residents experience.

The more fundamental proposals to **reduce the use of private estate management and increase public or resident-controlled management are principally aimed at new developments**. They would not automatically replace existing management arrangements, although the Government is also considering ways of giving residents on existing estates greater control.

Changes to Planning Decisions from 31 October

From **31 October 2026**, new Government regulations will change the way planning applications are determined.

At present, ward councillors and parish councils can **ask** for certain applications to be considered by the Planning Committee. The request is considered by the Council's Delegation Panel, which decides whether the application should be referred to committee. A request does not guarantee that this will happen. Under the new national system, applications will be divided into two main categories.

Schedule 1 applications will normally have to be determined by planning officers and cannot be referred to committee simply because a ward councillor, parish council or residents object. These include householder applications, minor residential and commercial development, most discharge of condition applications, prior approvals, non-material amendments and reserved matters applications relating to smaller outline permissions.

Schedule 2 applications can still be considered for referral to Planning Committee, but there will be a presumption that they are determined by officers. Referral will require agreement between the nominated senior planning officer and nominated councillor and must meet at least one of two tests:

- the application raises a significant economic, social or environmental issue for the local area; or

- it raises a significant planning matter having regard to the Development Plan and other material considerations.

Schedule 2 includes larger planning applications, listed building applications and reserved matters relating to very large outline developments.

Residents, parish councils and ward councillors will **still be able to comment on and object to planning applications**. What is changing is the route by which an application can reach the Planning Committee.

The change will therefore reduce the circumstances in which councillors can request an application to be considered by the Planning Committee. **Residents and parish councils will still be able to comment and object to planning applications, and those representations must still be taken into account**.

The full breakdown can be found here: Planning Committees and the National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions: Guidance for local planning authorities in England - GOV.UK

While losing local call-in powers is disappointing, parish council consultation responses remain vital. Detailed, evidence-based local feedback is even more essential during the consultation window to shape officer decisions since far fewer applications will be able to come to planning committee.

East West Rail – Fulbourn Train Care Centre

East West Rail has confirmed that the proposed **Cambridge Eastern Train Care Centre at Fulbourn has been dropped** and removed from its Development Consent Order proposals.

Train stabling and cleaning will instead be provided at a number of **existing rail industry sites elsewhere in the Eastern region, none of them in Cambridgeshire**. East West Rail says the alternative should provide better value for money and improve operational reliability.

The decision will be welcomed locally following the substantial concerns raised by residents, parish councils and other local representatives during the consultation.

Awards

Congratulations again to **Chris Riches and the Council's LIFT team**, whose work has picked up another national award. South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council won the **IRRV 2026 Excellence in Partnership Working – Fight Against Poverty Award** for a joint project identifying children who were eligible for free school meals but were not receiving them. The project has resulted in **81 additional children receiving free school meals** and secured **more than £1 million in additional Pupil Premium funding for local schools**.

Your councillors

Carla, Chloe and Vince