

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 27 April 2026 at 7:30pm in the Bowls Pavilion**

Present: P Ellwood (Chairman), HM Smith, D Wildman, J Coston, A Bradnam, R Farrington, J Windle

In attendance: S Corder (Clerk), J Barrett (Deputy Clerk), A Bradnam (as County and District Councillor),
12 members of the public
Michael Martin – Cambridgeshire County Highways Senior Project Manager

1. Introduction by Chairman and apologies for absence:

P Ellwood welcomed everyone present at the meeting.
D Owen gave apologies.

2. Introduction of Parish Councillors: The Chair reported that the council now have 8 members of the 12 needed. Councillors and staff introduced themselves. AB in attendance as Parish Councillor and County and District Councillor.

3. To confirm minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 12 May 2025

AB Proposed to accept the minutes - DW Seconded **AGREED (JW abstain)**. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 12 May 2025 were approved and signed.

4. Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2025/26

PE tabled his report and thanked the Councillors for all their hard work over the year.

This is a report outlining some of the main activities undertaken by Milton Parish Council in the 25/26 period. While some of the achievements around the village are visible there is a tremendous amount of work done in the background which people may not be aware of unless they are avid readers of the Parish Council Noticeboards and website. This report is a summary of what the Parish Council have been up to including some things you may not be aware of.

Edmund Green

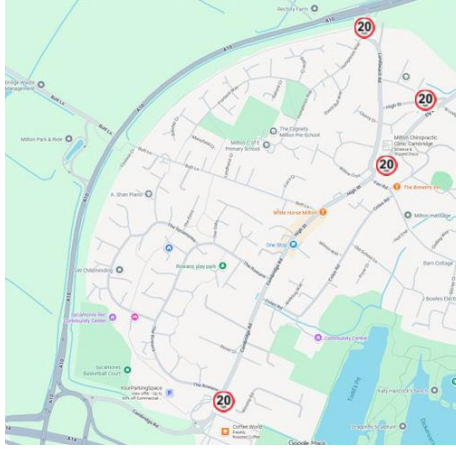
After many years of Edmund Green being an overgrown area on the corner of The Rowans and Cambridge Rd, the Parish Council were successful in winning an award from South Cambridgeshire District Council 'Shared Prosperity Fund' to refurbish the site. You will now see a new path providing access to all onto the site, some substantial planting of bushes and the installation of 3 quality benches. This has resulted in Edmund Green now being a very pleasant place to sit away from the busy High Street. Red Balloon is providing some of their students 'gardening time' and they will be undertaking weeding, planting, and pruning assistance for Edmund Green as well as the cemetery. We would like to thank Red Balloon for collaborating with us on village projects.

Cemetery

This year the Parish Council are attempting to upgrade the cemetery so that we can go for a Silver Churchyard Cemetery Award having reached bronze level in 2023. For this we need a water supply and to improve our Wildflower and Spring Flower areas. These projects are underway and hopefully by the time Summer comes you should be able to see the results of this work. What can be seen now is the long overdue resurfacing of the main path through the Cemetery.

High Street/Cambridge Road

The village has at last been selected to become a 20mph zone after several attempts by MPC to get chosen. Milton came in the top section of the successful villages asking for a 20mph zone. We anticipate that this lower speed limit will also potentially reduce the volume of vehicles as drivers decide the A10 by-pass is quicker for them. The scheme will mean 20 mph throughout the village. The proposal is to place entry points to the zones on Cambridge Rd just before The Rowans South entrance, at the Humphries Way entrance as you come off the A10, at the junction of High Street and Ely Road near to the Chiropractor clinic and opposite North Lodge Park. This is scheduled to be installed during the 2026/27 year.



Speed Cameras in the village.

There are MVAS units [digital speed signs) within the village along with a Telraam vehicle and speed detector which is moved to various locations to help us monitor the number of traffic movements and their speeds. Some may have noticed a new pole for the MVAS unit that recently went up in Ely Road. Some data for Milton South MVAS unit (close to the Village Vet):

- Av 5200 vehicles a day
- Av speed 22/23 mph
- Vehicles exceeding 30mph is 3.7%.
- 3 vehicles were over 60mph with one reaching the highest ever speed of 84mph.

The bottom line is that speeds are on or below 30mph (with only a few going above that) so with the introduction of the 20mph zone it will be interesting to see what the average speed will be. I would like to thank resident Mike Price for managing the MVAS devices for us and providing some excellent reports.

The Waterbeach Greenway

This is a reminder that this Greater Cambridge Partnership project to extend the Greenway through the centre of Milton has not gone away even if you have not heard much about it for a while. If you recall in the 2023 consultation, 177 Milton residents made a response with 2 to 1 rejecting their plans. Last year Milton Parish Council spoke to a number of residents and other parties about their concerns or wishes for an expected revised plan from GCP after their poor effort in producing an acceptable design in 2023. We also consulted with Camcycle who were also not happy with the 2023 proposal. We would like to assure residents that MPC took on board all the comments from those who expressed concerns to us about the effects the Greenway could have on them. This includes retaining parking outside the High Street shops, providing a parking area outside 25-33 High Street and importantly rejection of any dual use pathways/cycles ways.

GCP are now considering the list of proposals submitted by MPC/Camcycle as possible improvements on the previous 2023 scheme. Further, the GCP will be engaging with the village as soon as they have plans to show at which time the village will have the opportunity to make their comments. With that in mind, installation of the scheme may well not happen until after 2027.

The state of the roads in Milton.

If you recall, this time last year we were talking to Highways at the APM about when they were going to fix the potholes and the general surface condition of High Street/Cambridge Rd. While not perfect, Highways did make a number of visits to the village as promised and the road has been worked on in 3 places. Unfortunately, there are a few other areas which have deteriorated. There is still the longer term plan to improve the surface along the whole of High St/Cambridge Rd and while that is proposed for 26/27 it could of course depend on availability of funds. We should still be reporting pothole and other road surface issues to Highways to keep the pressure on.

Street lighting

Cambridgeshire County Council were looking to reduce their street lighting costs and decided to remove some lighting poles last year not just in Milton but across the County. They also decided that the street lighting needed to be upgraded to lower running cost LED units. At the time there were a lot of complaints about how some streets in Milton had become too dark creating safety issues. This eventually resulted in CCC coming to the village to inspect for themselves what was happening. This was obviously happening County wide as they decided to reinstate some of the lighting posts that had been removed. A total of 80 streetlights are being returned across the County with Milton getting 6. These have been returned to Willow Crescent and Coles Road.

A10/Humphries Way junction

As a reminder, the developer of the New Waterbeach site has agreed to improve the A10/Humphries Way junction at their expense. However, this will only happen after 280 properties have been occupied. Currently it stands at less than half of that meaning it will be some time before the developer will release funds for the junction improvement plan. These proposed plans were released by CCC last year.

Milton Parish Council along with Landbeach PC and the local District and County Councillors have not been happy about this. A 600 signature petition started by a resident of the Landbeach parish demanding urgent attention to the matter played a part in the issue being discussed at a Full County Council meeting in March 2026. A series of Motions were passed with the County Council agreeing to seek funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for this project so that the work could be pulled forward. Additionally, the authority was requested to prioritise Humphries Way junction improvements as part of their A10 improvement scheme. If the scheme is unable to be funded via the CPCA or developer contributions, they agreed to investigate other capital funding to deliver the much needed improvements.

MPC will continue to support pressure to get something done to this junction.

Park and Ride Noise

Last year we had a lot of antisocial late night vehicle noise coming from the Park and Ride site. To help control that the Police asked for a PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) giving them the powers to remove those from the site and even confiscate the vehicles of repeat offenders. It would allow the installation of number plate recognition at the site which the Police could use in evidence.

The PSPO was approved late last year but before it can go 'live' signage needs to be erected around the site. As of February 2026, it was confirmed that the signs were on order and were expected to be received soon. As soon as they are erected there will be publicity from SCDC, the Police, MPC, and other groups to warn people not to attend vehicle meetings on the site or to face the consequences. Let us hope that this Summer we will get quieter evenings.

Incidentally, the local Police officers are confident that once the Police station opens later this year in Summerfield Way, it will function as a deterrent against this type of behaviour so close to a Police HQ.

All Saints church wall.

The Parish Council were able to give a grant of £2000 to All Saints towards their fund raising to repair the Church Wall. This was the largest grant MPC have given this year because we thought it was important to help support the restoration of this heritage wall within the community.

Pond Green Christmas tree

In December, the Milton Parish Council once again installed a Christmas tree and lights on Pond Green. All Saints arranged carol singing around the tree with the Council providing a few light refreshments. What people may not have noticed that after many months and a lot of toil from the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, we finally got a hole dug into which a Christmas Tree can be securely placed...! It may not sound much but working through a lot of red tape we finally got the hole dug and ready within days of the tree being delivered.

Coles Road Phone Box

We would like to thank the 165 people who responded to the village survey about what to do with the Coles Rd phone box we now own. There was a majority in favour of a library. However, before we move forward with that decision, we are looking at re-homing the phone box to an area close to the Parish Council office.

Parking Problems in Milton.

The biggest local topic this last few months has been parking in Milton. In 2025 it was already becoming a problem with commuters using Milton as a free parking zone. Add to that the people visiting the Country Park who were looking for free parking and the situation began to cause friction within the village.

MPC decided to take some action, and we visited CCC Highways last July to talk through practical solutions. We were asked to conduct a village survey which we did towards the end of the year. We would like to thank the 365 people who responded with a range of views. These were fed back to Highways.

We then had the added problem of contractors from the developments South of the Coston Bridge using Milton as a parking option rather than using the designated parking which the developers has set up for

contractor vehicles. Fortunately, the site managers took rapid action once the problem was brought to their attention and we now see very few contractor vehicles on this side of the Coston bridge.

However, the parking problems within Milton still remain and we wait for Highways to advise on workable solutions. It should be pointed out that developers of the site just South of the bridge have given us £15,000 towards any solution and MPC have applied for more funding through an LHI (Local Highway Initiative) scheme. We are trying to obtain funding so that any suitable solutions can be implemented as quickly as possible.

Draft accounts for the year April 2025 to March 2026

These figures have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis.

Description	£ Last year (2024-25)	£ This year (2025-26)
Balances brought fwd	401,714	389,675
Annual precept	133,000	133,000
Total other receipts	36,888	55,965
Staff costs	57,407	56,803
Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
Total other payments	124,521	112,332
Balances carried forward	389,675	409,505
Total Cash and Short Term Investments	404,696	427,931
Total Fixed Assets and Long Term investments	239,964	299,942
Total Borrowings	0	0

The Parish Council

During this past year 25/26 we have had 8 councillors out of our maximum of 12. I would like to thank all for their hard work and dedication in striving to make Milton a better place for residents. On behalf of MPC, I want to thank our Clerk Sarah, Assistant Clerk John, Community Warden Tracy, and Village Maintenance person Philip for their contribution to the village and helping to run MPC efficiently.

The Council would like to give special thanks to Rob Farrington who has decided to retire from MPC after serving more years than I think he cares to remember. Rob was our Planning Chairman for many years, and his wealth of experience will be sorely missed within the Council.

On a personal level, I could not have been Chair for the last without the assistance of everybody. Thank you.

The Parish office

The office off Coles Road is open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 3pm. If you have an issue that requires direct contact, then please first telephone the Clerk on 01223 861447 or 07853 170646 so that we can arrange a way to help you. Further information is available on our website at <https://www.miltonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

PE gave thanks to Mike Price who volunteers to look after the PC's MVAS units.

PE also gave thanks to Red Balloon who will be carrying out gardening works on Edmund Green.

5. County Councillor's Report from Anna Bradnam April 2026

County Council

Local elections took place for all 61 seats on Cambridgeshire County Council on Thursday 1 May 2025. The table below shows the current composition of the Council compared to the election results in May 2021, and to this time last year.

	2021	2025	Now
Conservatives	28	10	10
Liberal Democrats	20	31	31
Labour	9	5	5
Independent	4	2	2
Reform UK	0	10	9
Non-aligned	0	0	1

Since the election, the Liberal Democrats and Independents have formed a Liberal Democrat and Independent Group. The election for Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough also took place on Thursday 1 May 2025, with Paul Bristow (Conservative) elected.

1 The Council

1.1 The Liberal Democrat and Independent Group now runs the Council. Our vision is to create a healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire. I currently sit on Adults and Health Committee and I am a substitute on most of the other Committees whose work is itemised below, as well as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board. As local member for the Waterbeach Depot, I am also a part of the Waste Steering Group considering the council's arrangements for the disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste. I remain the County's nominated member of the Conservators of the River Cam.

1.2 The Council has considered a number of motions. These include opposing any plans to merge our local police force into a larger and more remote body; the need for support for people in mental health crisis or at suicide risk; GP services for growing communities; and flood prevention.

2 Strategy Resources & Performance

2.1 The Council set its budget in February 2026, including record spending on roads, thousands of extra school places, and support for vulnerable residents. The budget included an additional £20 million for highway maintenance, delivery of the council's climate change and environment strategy, and £11 million to upgrade household recycling centres at Milton and March. £14.7 million of additional funding was allocated for adult social care providers to help them manage rising costs and ensure care workers are paid the Real Living Wage, improving stability and quality for those who depend on care workers for their support. Provision of holiday meal vouchers will continue until the end of summer 2026 for those children most in need, although funded differently. The Government's replacement Crisis and Resilience Fund is less generous than its predecessor, and is intended to provide a range of anti-poverty measures in addition to feeding children poorer families.

There will be 3,500 new primary school places, and £72 million over five years to increase secondary school places. There will also be continued funding for the Families First early intervention programme that helps keep more families together. And more than £1.2 million will be invested in libraries and archives over the next two years.

2.2 The council ran its third annual Quality of Life survey in 2025, which provides valuable insights into residents' perspectives and priorities. 5,500 residents (1,100 in each district) were directly polled for their views, and the survey was open in the summer for any other resident.

2.3 Like almost every county and unitary council, the Council increased its portion of council tax by 4.99% in total, comprising 2% for adult social care, and 2.99% for general spending.

3 Adults and Health

3.1 The Adults and Health Committee has a significant role in ensuring that health inequalities are reduced, and that people enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support suited to their needs. One of the first decisions of the new 2025 Liberal Democrat administration was to split the committee into two committees—one for its public health, adult social care and procurement responsibilities, and the other (Health Scrutiny) dedicated to the council's role in scrutinising local NHS services.

3.2 The council's adult social care services were rated as Good by the Care Quality Commission in summer last year.

3.3 This has been a turbulent time for the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). ICBs are statutory NHS organisations in England responsible for planning and buying healthcare services for local populations. They replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups in 2022. Last year the Government required enormous in-year and ongoing savings to be made by ICBs. This has resulted in mergers of many ICBs as a way of cutting jobs. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, instead of having its own ICB, is now part of NHS Central East, which covers Cambs, Pet', Beds, Luton, Milton Keynes and Herts.

3.4 Primary care provision across Cambridgeshire remains very fragile however, with most residents relying on private dental provision, and many GP practices struggling to deliver services.

3.5 The new Health Scrutiny Committee has held a number of meetings and has invited various health providers and had the opportunity to ask searching questions. Subjects considered have included dentistry, primary care and GP services, and services for young people with autism.

3.6 The future of the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge remains uncertain, after the NHS Trust withdrew over £800,000 of support. A private donation has enabled it to continue for a further year.

4 Assets and Procurement

4.1 The County Council's Assets and Procurement Committee has agreed a partnership with developer Prologis to support the future expansion of Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

4.2 The council's Shareholder Sub Committee approved an updated business plan from the council's wholly-owned company This Land. The current council administration has worked extremely hard to stabilise the company, transforming it from the way it had been set up ten years ago under the then Conservative administration. The updated business plan enables the company to repay interest, reduce the amounts owed to the council, and limit the council's exposure to risk from the company.

5 Children and Young People

5.1 Like most county councils, Cambridgeshire continues to experience huge financial pressures associated with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and with the costs of home to school transport. The number of children in Cambridgeshire with an Education Health and Care Plan has grown by 71 per cent between 2020 and 2025. The council invested an additional £780,000 in the autumn to increase capacity to process these plans. The Government will be delivering two new special schools in the county, in Gamlingay and March, with 270 new special school places.

5.2 Cambridgeshire County Council's services for care leavers have improved since 2024, according to an Ofsted visit in July 2025. They also listed four areas for further improvement.

5.3 In July I was delighted to join Cllrs Jonny Edge and Lorna Dupre at the council's Children in Care Celebration and Awards at Inflationbounce in Wyton. It was great to see our children enjoying themselves so much and to have a chance to meet and chat to many of our dedicated foster carers.

5.4 A new Community outreach service from the council aims to support and develop the skills of parents and children from 0-5yrs and of the community groups supporting them.

6 COSMIC (Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee)

6.1 COSMIC has continued to oversee support for people experiencing immediate financial hardship. An increasing number of families are struggling financially at the moment.

6.2 One urgent issue is the sudden spike in the price of domestic heating oil as a result of war in Iran. The council has received £708,000 from the Government which is ring-fenced to support households who are finding it difficult to afford heating oil. The money has been added to the council's Crisis & Resilience Fund, and applications (for up to £400 per household) are being administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. Eligibility for this fund is currently restricted to those on specific means-tested benefits. If the Government's grant were to be shared equally among every household in the county reliant on oil heating, each household would receive less than £27.50, so the council is having to make difficult decisions about priorities.

6.3 The committee has procured an IT system which will enable more systematic and earlier identification of low income households which would benefit from support. South Cambridgeshire District Council has been using this system for a couple of years now, with remarkable results.

6.4 Work is under way to implement the recommendations of Cambridgeshire's Poverty Strategy Commission. These are grouped into six themes: income maximisation, digital inclusion, rural poverty, housing and homelessness, children and families, and mental health.

6.5 Adult learning services in Cambridgeshire were given a Good rating by Ofsted in spring 2025, with the behaviour and attitude of learners judged to be Outstanding.

7 Environment

7.1 Water scarcity and water management are key issues for Cambridgeshire. Water Resources East is responsible for producing a regional water resources plan for Eastern England, with a combination of infrastructure investment and demand management. Meanwhile, the Fens2100+ project, which brings together a number of agencies to develop a long-term plan to manage future flood risk in the Fens, has published a suite of reports including a Case for Change, Partnership Action Plan, and summary baseline report. The threat of Anglian Water's wastewater treatment centre moving to Horningsea has been lifted since the government removed the enabling funding.

7.2 Community watercourse grants are available from the council to support communities where the condition of local watercourses is increasing the risk of flooding. These can be used for clearance and maintenance, equipment-hire, contractor support, or training and safety equipment.

7.3 Cambridgeshire County Council is calling on residents to play an active role in restoring local nature as part of the 'Nature Recovery - From the Ground Up' project—a new initiative supporting parishes and community groups to design their own Community Nature Recovery Plans. The first phase of the project runs from July 2025 to March 2027, focusing on Cambridge and twenty parishes across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire. Other parishes are invited to use the mapping software, and to register interest for future phases of the project.

7.4 Cambridgeshire County Council has been ranked by Climate Emergency UK as one of the top performing councils in the country for the action it has taken towards Net Zero.

7.5 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP) is urging residents to recycle batteries and battery-powered electricals safely, following an increase in fires caused by incorrectly disposed-of lithium-ion batteries. UK-wide, over 1,200 waste-related fires were recorded in 2025.

7.6 The Cambridgeshire Digital Inclusion Directory is a guide to help residents get online, access devices, and build essential digital skills. It features trusted local organisations offering free support with digital access, equipment and training. Available at libraries and community hubs, or online.

8 Highways and Transport

8.1 The condition of our roads and footways, as in every county, deteriorated rapidly over the winter. Highways and Transport Committee chair Cllr Alex Beckett has written a very informative explainer article at notesfromalex.substack.com/p/why-are-the-roads-so-bad-right-now

8.2 The council continues to add more funding to its road maintenance budget, as the funding from Government via the Combined Authority is completely insufficient. Around 35,000 permits for work in the highway are being issued annually in Cambridgeshire and in addition works are undertaken that do not require a permit. Our peat soil roads are a major problem, taking four or five times as much money to repair as regular roads. In 2025/26 the council reconstructed a number of stretches of peat soil road, trialling new methods to increase the stability of these roads. The road network is being reassessed in April/ May, to update the list of capital maintenance priorities for 2027/28.

Capital Maintenance and Improvement programme for 2026/27.

8.3 **Cambridge Road/High Street and Ely Road, Milton.** The carriageway is badly cracked and potholed. Following my site visit with an officer early in 2025, some large patches were done between the Coles Road and The Rowans (north) junction to improve safety of the carriageway, **in advance of major resurfacing works in 2026/27.**

8.4 Under the same programme **Bannold Road, Waterbeach** will have resurfacing during 2026/27.

8.5 In 2026/27 **Landbeach - Cottenham Road and Green End Road** will have preparation for surface dressing in 2027/28.

8.5 In **Milton - James Carlton Close, The Oaks and The Rowans** will have surface treatment as a preventative measure.

8.6 **Chapel Street, Waterbeach** will have (long awaited) drainage design and construction works.

8.7 Highways staffing was reviewed and our new Highways Maintenance Officer is George Carson. A new highways Asset Management System, Aurora, went live in September 2025, enabling better report handling, workflow handling, and performance oversight.

8.8 **Highways and Transport Committee on 14 October 2025** approved funding for various highways improvement projects under the 2025/26 programme. **Landbeach and Milton** were successful in their bids for village-wide 20 mph zones, though sadly Horningsea and Fen Ditton's bids were below the cut line for funding when prioritised against other applications. (**Waterbeach** had received approval for a village wide 20mph zone under the 2024/25 programme.) Under the **Non-Complex** list, **Milton** will receive funding towards double yellow lines on Coles Road, opposite the parish office car park, **Landbeach** will receive a contribution towards speed buffer zones at both ends of the village.

Waterbeach received approval for a combination of speed reduction measures and a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign.

8.9 New LED street lights are being installed across the county at a rate of about 2,000 per month. Over 47,000 lights will have new components fitted, with the aim of reducing the council's energy use by one-third. In Milton the parish council negotiated for the reinstatement of some lights that had been removed, which has restored light to some dark areas of the village.

8.10 One of the sadder aspects of being a County Councillor is that I am advised about fatalities on roads in Waterbeach Division. Too often these involve young motorcyclists. I am alarmed by the hazard presented by A10 junctions that we as residents often need to cross daily. I am also mindful of the near-misses and collisions which occur around our villages. I am working with officers to seek replacements of signage which has fallen or been knocked over and requesting cutting back of vegetation to reveal existing warning signs.

8.11 The council is getting tough on utilities companies and developers who overstay their permits to work on the highway or fail to abide by their permit conditions. In 2024/25 the council issued fines totalling £483,000.

9 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

9.1 Work is progressing on options for bus franchising, with an update due in June 2026. Meanwhile, thirty-five bus routes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are at risk as the Mayor seeks to cut half a million pounds from local bus services. The County Council had to contribute funding to keep the young people's Tiger Pass going until March 2027.

9.2 The Combined Authority is working on projects including an employment strategy for young people not in education, employment or training; accreditation as a Local Visitor Economy Partnership; and a small trial to install channels in pavements to carry cables for on-street charging of electric vehicles.

9.3 The Mayor wants to dual the A10 between Ely and the A14 at Milton. My colleagues and I have been objecting to this, since it would see new tarmac laid over the remaining open fields between Landbeach and Milton and would separate our villages from their supportive network of schools, shops and services. Quite apart from this, there is currently no funding for dualling, from either the Government or the CPCA, which would have to find 15% of the cost.

10. Council reorganisation

10.1 Councils have been responding to the Government's plan to abolish district and county councils and replace them with unitary authorities. Four options for different ways of carving up our area have been submitted by local councils, and we expect to hear this summer which one the Government has chosen. The County Council submitted 'Option A' which would join Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire in one authority, with Peterborough, Fenland and Huntingdonshire in another.

11 Thank you to the clerks and parish councillors of the five parishes in the Waterbeach division, and the many community organisations, whose hard work helps keep our communities together

6. District Councillors' Report from Anna Bradnam and Paul Bearpark April 2026

This report provides a summary of the period May 25 to April 26 during which time Anna Bradnam, Paul Bearpark were District Councillors for the Milton and Waterbeach ward. Judith Rippeth was councillor until January 26 when she stepped down.

Transport & Infrastructure

Waterbeach Station Relocation

Securing proper facilities at the new Waterbeach station has been a major priority throughout the year. From July 2025, Paul and Anna pressed the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) for toilets, a waiting room, and café to be in place from day one of opening, with space for future expansion as the new town grows. Following sustained advocacy, the GCP Assembly in February 2026 overwhelmingly backed the proposal and the Board was expected to commission planning and design work on the facilities. Canopies are also planned for both platforms, with a longer canopy on the southbound platform where most commuters wait. Construction of the haul road began in January 2026, routing most construction traffic away from the village.

Existing Waterbeach Station

Despite Network Rail's position that the existing station will close when the new one opens, Paul and Anna have actively supported the local campaign to keep it open. Community petitions organised by John Cattermole and Robert Jones surpassed 1,000 signatures by March 2026.

A10 Mere Way Bridge

A new 95-metre active travel bridge over the A10, connecting Waterbeach New Town with the Mere Way cycle route to Cambridge, was installed in September 2025 and is now open. The bridge was designed by Knight Architects, the firm behind the Abbey-Chesterton Bridge on the Chisholm Trail.

Planning

The Secretary of State approved Anglian Water's Development Consent Order to relocate the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant in April 2025. However, this was set back significantly in September 2025 when the government withdrew Housing Infrastructure Fund support, stalling the wider North East Cambridge development of over 8,500 homes. The City Council and SCDC are now exploring future options with stakeholders including the Cambridge Growth Company.

All three councillors objected to the application to convert the Nokia office building in Milton to a Kia car dealership. Despite attending the site visit and Planning Committee in August 2025 to raise concerns about traffic and the village's Minor Rural/Green Belt/Conservation Area status, the committee approved it unanimously. A 'monitor and manage' clause was secured and car transporters will be routed away from the village centre.

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan consultation launched in December 2025, setting out where new homes and workplaces could be built over the next 20 years. A separate Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) consultation opened in February 2026. A new Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website with postcode-based localisation also launched in December 2025. The Shared Planning Service was named Planning Authority of the Year by the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Environment & Climate

Food Waste Collections

Under the Environment Act 2021, SCDC introduced weekly food waste collections across the district in phased waves. Landbeach was included in the first wave (January 2026), Milton in June 2026, and Waterbeach in September 2026. All households receive a 5-litre indoor caddy and 23-litre outdoor bin; collection day remains unchanged.

Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN)

A joint Cambridge City/SCDC project to decarbonise the shared waste fleet and install renewable energy at Waterbeach Depot is under way, due for completion in Q4 2026. It will install 36 EV charging points, a 1.1MWp solar plant, a 1MW/2MWh battery, and a new substation. The £6.1 million project is funded partly by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and will supply 59% of depot energy from renewables, achieving over 40% biodiversity net gain.

Zero Carbon Communities Grants

The ZCC grant scheme continued throughout the year, with round seven launching in May 2025 (£125,000 pot, grants of £2,000–£15,000) and a further £152,000 committed for 2026, raising the per-project maximum to £19,500. Since 2019, over £855,000 has been awarded to more than 80 projects across the district. Parish councils and community groups are encouraged to apply.

Local Government Reorganisation

A major theme of the year was the government's programme to replace district and county councils with unitary authorities. SCDC, Cambridge City, and East Cambridgeshire District voted to support Option B: a new unitary combining South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City, with a second northern unitary covering East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland, and Peterborough. Business cases were submitted in November 2025 and a public consultation ran from February to March 2026. The final decision rests with the Secretary of State. Parish and town councils will be unaffected and will continue to operate as they do now.

Housing & Community

SCDC had a landmark year in housing. The Council delivered 58 new homes for affordable rent, 10 for shared ownership, and 11 for temporary accommodation, alongside supporting 525 affordable homes delivered with partners. An £8.2 million government grant for social housing retrofits brought total energy efficiency funding to £19 million across 610 homes. The team achieved a 62% success rate preventing homelessness for 278 individuals and families.

The Unity Centre, Northstowe's permanent community centre, was completed and handed to Northstowe Town Council in March 2026. Built to Passivhaus standards using cross-laminated timber and powered by a ground-source heat pump with solar panels, it represents SCDC's highest ambitions for sustainable community infrastructure.

The Waterbeach Community Forum met in November 2025 and March 2026, providing a regular channel for residents to raise questions and receive answers from the council.

Grants & Funding for Communities

A range of grant opportunities were made available to parishes and community groups during the year, including: the Improving the High Street grant (up to £20,000 for businesses and community groups); an EV charger grant (up to £12,000 for village halls/community car parks); an Allotment Improvement Grant (up to £10,000); a Community Watercourse Maintenance grant (up to £10,000 from the County Council); and the Service Support Grants programme (£300,000 per year for three years, covering mental health, advice services, cost-of-living support and more). Free commemorative trees were also offered to parishes to mark the national Covid-19 Day of Commemoration on 8 March 2026.

Elections

Judith Rippeth stepped down as District Councillor in January 2026 to spend more time with family; As elections were due in May 2026, no by-election was held. Paul and Anna continue to represent the ward. Postal votes introduced under the Elections Act now expire after three years; of the 15,392 South Cambridgeshire residents requiring renewal, the Council achieved a 72.28% response rate, with those not renewing having their postal vote cancelled. Residents can apply or reapply at gov.uk/apply-postal-vote up to 21 April 2026 for the 7 May elections.

7. Milton Community Centre Report April 2026

Milton Community Centre and Recreation Grounds Management Committee

Milton Community Centre and Recreation Grounds is a Charity created by the Parish Council to manage the Recreation grounds at Coles Road, The Sycamores, and the more recent addition North Lodge Park.

The Charity is managed by a committee of volunteer Trustees both elected and nominated by the affiliated village organisations.

The day-to-day operation of the facilities is covered by a small group of employees including two part time managers. I am sad to say that Andy West is stepping back from his role as Manager and we thank him for his significant contribution over the past five years. We recently welcomed Monika Alikoviene to the team. She will lead the admin side together with Neil Roberts who will focus on maintenance.

On the finance side, significant income comes from hire fees with an average of fifty-five regular groups providing activities 7 days a-week and the Trustees have successfully applied for grants for specific projects. However, the Charity is only financially viable with ongoing support from the Parish Council. Final accounts will not be available until later in the year, but preliminary results indicate a small surplus for the year just ended despite rising costs and significant maintenance and repair expense particularly on the older buildings and the many mature trees around the grounds. Tree work alone cost £10,000 during the year.

Parking in Milton is a key topic. The car parks at the recreation grounds are private for the use of site visitors only yet we continue to see high levels of parking by people going off-site which at times is making parking difficult for genuine users. The Coles Road Car Park is for visitors to the Recreation Ground and facilities, Doctors' Surgery, and the Parish Council office. We will shortly be implementing a form of parking control which should have no impact on genuine users.

Finally, there are vacancies for Trustee roles so please contact us if you would like more information about supporting the group with a few hours of your time.

Don Wildman - Chairman of the Management Committee

Bookings: The Main Community Centre building is now in use 7 days a week and operates 52 weeks a year. We have over 65 groups using the 3 sites in an average week and have a good spread of activities for all age groups at the centre from exercise classes and activities to support groups for people with diabetes, balance issues and alcoholism.

We also have bookings for training workshops run by the NHS, South Cambs and local businesses.

The Annexe is still used by Kids R Us Monday to Friday during term time for wrap around care and as a holiday club out of school term times. At weekends it is used for dance and drama on a Saturday morning and children's parties Saturday afternoons and Sundays. It is also used for ballroom dancing, Morris dancing and aerobics in the evenings.

The Youth Building is used by Eddies Artworks throughout the year Monday to Friday and by Youth Club on a Thursday.

North Lodge is used by Milton Colts Football, Milton Cricket Club, Inland Water Ways and has also been used for children's parties.

The recreational spaces continue to be used by Milton Football Club, Milton Cricket Club and Milton Colts Football and the general public.

Maintenance and Improvements: In addition to day-to-day and scheduled maintenance the following work has been carried out during the last year:

- The lounge floor has been sanded and varnished
- The toilets in the annexe have been painted
- Battery storage has been added to the solar panels at the Youth Building
- The boiler has been replaced in the Annexe.
- Significant tree work had been completed at Coles Road and the Sycamores.

Crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour: Thankfully we have continued to see a reduction in damage caused by quad bikes and motorbikes to the recreational spaces and football pitches across the 3 sites with only a few issues occurring this year.

We do continue to have cases of petty vandalism and graffiti and continue to see evidence of high levels of recreational drug use at the Sycamores Recreation Ground and occasionally at Coles Road.

We continue to have numerous issues with dog owners allowing their dog to foul the recreation spaces and car park and not clear up.

Other issues: Parking at Coles Road for the Country Park continues to be an issue and has on one occasion led to hirers being unable to park at the Community Centre although they have booked it on a Sunday afternoon.

We also continue to have people parking here to walk or cycle to the science park or car share for the rest of their journey into Cambridge.

Staff: I will be leaving the Community Centre on the 1st of May and Monica Alikoviene is currently undertaking training. Neil Roberts will continue to job share with Monica. We also have 2 part time members of staff, Kevin and Philip, who share some of the key holder duties.

Andy West – MCC Manager

Main questions asked

Q. Now that the sewage works is not moving from Cowley Road is the capacity of the current site sufficient for all the new developments in Cambridge?

A: Anglian Water have said there is plenty of capacity for them to stay on the current site. It was noted that funding has now been withdrawn for a move to a different site.

Q. Michael Martin (MM) of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways was asked for his opinion of double yellow lines, timed parking restrictions, and resident parking schemes in the village.

A. Double yellow lines are considered to be the cheapest way of dealing with parking issues. Single yellow lines with timed parking can be effective in the right areas and at certain times to produce the best result. Consideration needs to be given to visitor parking when setting time restrictions. Resident parking permits work very well but there is a large cost factor to consider with such an installation. Residents are also less in favour of resident parking schemes. **PE:** reported that there were 365 responses to the parking survey that was conducted late in 2025 which showed that yellow lines were the most favoured option.

Q. MM was asked if he would comment on parking enforcement and what limitations there were.

A. The Parking Enforcement offices from South Cambs District Council can only issue tickets for parking on double yellow line, timed parking areas, parking bays, and the blocking of dropped kerbs. All other parking issues would be dealt with by the Police. Residents were encouraged to report parking issues to Southcambsparkingenforcement@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Q. What could be done about lorry parking in the village especially overnight?

Overnight lorry parking is taking place primarily in Cambridge Rd close to the County Park entrance and South Rowans.

A. It was suggested in the first instance to contact the lorry owners to ask them to park elsewhere. MM further suggested Milton obtain a Prohibition of HGV overnight order or similar as installed in Histon / Impington. This has been previously discussed and supported as a feasible solution from the CCC Highways Policy & Regulation team. Anna Bradnam requested sending date/time stamped pictures to her of overnight lorries.

Q. What can be done about parking along The Rowans North where the road width gets reduced to unsafe levels when cars are double parked.

A. MM said that parking control was needed and would be included in the options to be presented to MPC. It was suggested a dialogue with Edmund House could help to find a solution to their employees/visitors parking.

Q. Why is the Park and Ride not being used instead by the people currently using Milton for their daily parking choice?

A. MPC could offer no answer to this. MPC would like to see more commuters park at the P&R rather than in the village.

Q. Can something be done about the boarding around 26 Butt Lane since it is considered to be unsafe.

A. AB said she would follow up.

Q. Some streetlighting on Froment Way is angled away from the path and is illuminating the side of a house. Can this be fixed?

A. MPC have agreed to make a night walk in the village to see for themselves what is happening in Froment Way and at other locations.

Q. Parking at some locations in the village around junctions is poor and, in some cases, creates a safety issue. An example of this is in Lander Close where vehicles are parking too close to the junction.

A. AB to follow this up with Highways.

Meeting closed: 9:40pm

Signed.....Date.....