

Whaddon Parish Council November 2024

This report includes:

- *Local*
- *Nearby*
- *County Council budget*
- *County Highways*
- *Adult Social Care Information*
- *Planning*
- *New recycling initiative*
- *Grants for local projects*
- *Trains, scooter, buses*
- *Virtual attendance for councils*

Local

School bus collection and drop-off

Hoping the matter of safe pick-up and drop-off for school bus passengers will be sorted agreeably at an in-person site meeting later this month, for which thanks to the clerk and chair for organizing.

Nearby

Meldreth 20MPH scheme approved

A County Council decision-making meeting attended by Susan considered all the representations to the formal public consultation for the Traffic Regulation Order; plus, the original application by the parish council, and letters of support from Meldreth Primary School and Aurora Meldreth Manor. It was noted that the scheme has both opposition and support. On balance, and with particular focus on the most vulnerable road users, it was agreed that the scheme should go ahead. Please see the decision notice here [DDM 23-10-24 page](#)

Meldreth Station link to Melbourn

This is a bit late owing to wet weather and some unanticipated underground works earlier on, but completion is not far off. Lighting will be installed.

County Council budget

County Council Budget

The council's current position forecasts an overspend of £9.6M for the current financial year—that's 2% of its budget. The county council's estimated budget gap for next year (2025/26) has increased from £23.5M to more than £39M, largely due to a combination of increasing demand for services, inflationary pressures, and uncertainty over future funding from Government. Over the last ten years, the council's core government funding has reduced by 70 per cent in real terms. Combined with more steep rises in inflation and a surge in demand for services supporting some of our most vulnerable residents, this has added further cost pressures to the council.

Highways

Rights of Way support

Our new Rights of Way Officer is Oliver Ayto, whose job includes maintenance of footpaths and bridleways. Work is prioritized according to public safety, clear daily use access, and convenience. Ollie has replaced Peter Gaskin.

Green Infrastructure Team: who cuts which verges?

The County 'Green Infrastructure Team' which came into being earlier this year is working across all parishes to clarify any ambiguity relating to County versus Parish responsibilities on grass cutting and improving the 'Maps' function on the County Council website (home page at the top) - which provides public access to detailed maps which help to identify public property ownership and responsibilities. Please watch this space.

Adult Social Care information

Adult Social Care Front Door telephone number:

Any questions, including if you're not sure what to ask. Please ring Cambridgeshire County Council on 0345 0455202.

Care Microenterprise Directory

As previously reported, Cambridgeshire County Council has been supporting small new care businesses to take root. Services tend to be less costly than those provided by big care agencies. These entities work in a wide variety of ways, and the directory is growing - please take look if you or someone you know are curious: [The Care Micro-Enterprise directory \(CME\) | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

The same website has information on how to set up a care microenterprise – including for people new to caring professions.

Planning

Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document

SCDC will be making decisions soon on whether to adopt planning guidance that embeds Health and Wellbeing into all new developments. New town and new housing developments can, if well designed, really make a positive difference to people's health and wellbeing. Northstowe New Town, for example, includes outdoor fitness equipment, lots of cycle and walks ways and really beautifully designed green and blue spaces.

Grants for local projects

National Highways - Call for new Social Value Fund applications

Do you have an initiative that could benefit from our legacy funds? All non-for-profit groups or organisations in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire can apply, including but not limited to local schools, charities, community groups, and environment groups. Grants for the Social Value Fund are from £15,000 to £200,000, for smaller scale projects, the Community Fund offers grants of up to £15,000. We have three more applications windows for the two funds - November 2024 to January 2025, May 2025 to July 2025 and November 2025 to January 2026.

For details on funding criteria and how to apply: [Social Value Fund and Community Fund](#).

Improving the High Street – grant funding

A new £200,000 grant scheme is available to support projects that boost the heart of communities across South Cambridgeshire. The Improving the High Street Grants of between £5,000 to £20,000 per project are available to rural businesses, community groups and Parish Councils and the scheme aims to improve the look of local high streets, promote rejuvenation, encourage residents to shop locally and attract more local businesses to the area. The grant can cover a wide range of projects such as renovating shop fronts, street art, new benches, hanging baskets, interactive family fun trails, street cleaning, local maps or new signs.

New recycling initiative

Recycling Cables

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service is working with Recycle Your Electricals to encourage Cambridgeshire residents to participate in The Great Cable Challenge – a nationwide campaign aimed at tackling the millions of cables sitting idle across UK households. The initiative is part of this year's International E-Waste Day.

[Councils ask residents to recycle their unused cables this International E-Waste Day](#)

The challenge aims to give a second life to the valuable materials contained in cables, such as copper. Copper can be recycled into new items such as wind turbines and new tech such as mobile phones, laptops, tablets or smart watches.

With millions of cables cluttering up UK homes, Recycle Your Electricals have published a handy Cable Guide. With 35 of the most used cables, the guide provides easy to use visuals to match cables to their original electricals. If the electricals or the cables are no longer working or they aren't needed anymore, simply bag up your cables and recycle them. The nearest recycling points are outdoor banks at:

- Haslingfield Village Hall
- Fowlmere High Street, opposite The Chequers.

Trains, Scooters, Buses

East West Rail

East West Rail (EWR) have announced that their Non-Statutory Consultation will begin on 14 November 2024, closing on 24 January 2025. More information, including details of consultation events, can be found at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation2024>

Electric scooters as Christmas presents? Please be aware

Please be aware, as it may not be common knowledge, that while privately purchased e-scooters can be used on private property, they are not legal to use on the 'public highway' – our roads and pavements. The exception, which makes things confusing, is the County Council run E-scooter rental scheme in Cambridge city.

We do get a fair share of complaints and concerns about e-scooters, mainly because of concerns about the safety of riders and those who may come into contact with them. We're aware that Cambs Police will be doing a publicity campaign about this issue as Christmas approaches.

Bus Franchising consultation and a response from the Cam Vale Bus User Group

DRAFT RESPONSE – your views welcome:

Cam Vale Bus User Group: Response to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority consultation on Bus Franchising

The Cam Vale Bus User Group represents primarily bus users in the most southern villages of South Cambs, bordering on North Hertfordshire and currently served by the 17 service, operated by Myall's, and to some extent also the 26 operated by A2B. Villages include Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, Litlington, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, Whaddon, Meldreth, Melbourn.

Concerns:

- No big tool to reduce congestion following last year's collapse of the Making Connections scheme; there have been multiple reports of the 26 service getting stuck in Cambridge evening peak congestion and this diminishes passenger confidence.
- We are not convinced that bus franchising will meaningfully reduce congestion to transform journey times, especially as the population will grow significantly.
- Long lead in time, minimal not transformative financing.
- Unclear that rural villages, including large villages like Bassingbourn, would see options genuinely improve. Main discernible benefit would be some kind of certainty of a continued minimal service that doesn't even serve post-16 education and training, let alone weekend job opportunities, and leisure.
- Integrated ticketing is missing; a potential cap on daily charge is something but this is not guaranteed.
- Good to have an accountable mayor but only as good as whoever's in office, and the structures around them.
- Will there be adequate interest from the bus industry to come forward?

In spite of these concerns the Cam Vale Bus User Group will be encouraging a positive response for franchising as it seems to offer the best chance of stability and forward steps.

Virtual attendance for councils

Yearning for council meetings on Zoom?

The Government has just launched a consultation on whether to allow councillors (county, district, or parish) to attend and vote remotely at council meetings. The consultation closes Dec 19.

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fconsultations%2Fenabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings&data=05%7C02%7C%7C30b7f1761ace4f2db8f008dcf5018a30%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638654634156146969%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEkaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=11Qth9ofhSZJEswzLfvTufkz6t96WvljtpEe7prMokQ%3D&reserved=0>