

District Council Report for February 2026

Councillor James Hobro

District Councillor for the parishes of Foxton, Fowlmere, Heydon, Great Chishill & Little Chishill.

I am always happy to hear from residents with any questions about these or other issues relating to the District Council. Please contact me by telephone on 07768 706670 or by email at cllr.hobro@scamb.gov.uk.

Cambridge Growth Company

The [Cambridge Growth Company](#) (CGC) was established by the government in 2024 to foster additional economic growth in the Cambridge area by delivering housing, transport, water, and wider infrastructure. The council invited the CGC Chair, Peter Freeman, to attend a Scrutiny & Overview Committee meeting on 29 January, where he and his team were questioned for three hours on the company's objectives, progress and its proposed relationship with local councils. You can view the meeting [here](#). I asked questions about how the CGC's aims might differ from our Local Plan and about their proposals to facilitate improvement in our bus services.

The CGC gave firm reassurance that their aim was to support the delivery of the new Local Plan by helping to solve water and transport problems, rather than to rewrite it. However, they are proposing to have the power to intervene anywhere in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire rather than restricting their involvement to specific high-impact development sites. They also emphasised their role in long-term planning for growth, beyond the end of the new Local plan period in 2045.

A liaison meeting with CGC for Parish Councils has been arranged on 4 February at 6pm at South Cambridgeshire Hall. Please [email the council](#) if you would like to attend.

Planning Service Awards

After recently being awarded the title of [Planning Authority of the Year](#) by the Royal Town Planning Institute, the council's Planning service has received another award, this time for its Youth Engagement Service, which [has won the Inspire Future Generations Award](#) for Best Local Authority in Youth Engagement from the Thornton Education Trust. This recognises their work in engaging thousands of children in the planning process, providing work experience placements, and supporting youth engagement in public art projects.

Food waste collections

In line with changing government requirements for food waste collection, weekly food waste collections are now taking place in some parts of the district. They are scheduled to begin in our ward in April. Everyone should receive a letter in March with details of the change and information on how we will receive our food waste caddy. More information is available [on the council's web site](#).

Street cleaning schedule

The [next scheduled period for street cleaning](#) in our ward is 9–20 March. If Parish Councils have specific areas that they would like dealt with by the road sweeper crew, please contact the street cleaning team [using this form](#).

Civil Parking Enforcement survey

A survey on Civil Parking Enforcement has been sent to Town and Parish Councils in the council's regular e-bulletin to help gather feedback on the scheme since its introduction two years ago. A previous survey generated only received limited feedback so I would encourage Parish Councils to give their views. The survey will close at the end of March.

Record level of council house rebuilding

The council has [completed building 113 new council homes](#) since 1 April 2025, which represents a significant increase in the rate of replenishing our council house stock in the district. The previous yearly record (from last year) was 91 homes. This is bringing real improvements in our ability to meet the growing housing need in this area.

Government planning framework consultation

The government's [consultation on their proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework](#) is still open, running until 10 March.

New powers to keep pavements clear

The Department for Transport [announced on 8 January](#) that they will be introducing new local government powers to keep pavements clear and accessible, while allowing exemptions where required. This will streamline the present lengthy process for taking action on parking that blocks pavements. Guidance will be released later in the year.

Feedback on council services

A reminder that the District Council has a new mechanism to allow general feedback on the council's services from residents, businesses, Parish Councils, or any other clients. Please use the link www.scambs.gov.uk/leave-feedback.