

## District Council Report for April 2026

Councillor James Hobro

District Councillor for the parishes of Foxtton, 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@scambbs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hobro@scambbs.gov.uk).

### Elections on 7 May

There will be elections on 7 May for the District Council and all Parish Councils within the district. Most Parish Council elections are uncontested this year, but Foxtton and Fowlmere Parish Councils both have more nominations than places so will be contested in a ballot alongside the District Council election. More information, including the list of candidates in each ward and parish and all relevant dates, is available [on the council's web site](#).

### Food waste collections

In line with changing government requirements for food waste collection, weekly food waste collections are now already taking place in some parts of the district, including in Heydon and The Chishills. Residents in Foxtton and Fowlmere should now have received a letter with details of the change and information on how we will receive our food waste caddies.

The new caddies and instructions on how they should be used will be delivered before 11 May, which is the first date when they are due to be collected. More information is available [on the council's web site](#). Please do get in touch if there are any teething problems with food waste collections.

### Zero Carbon Communities Grant

The eighth round of the Council's [Zero Carbon Communities Grant](#) will launch on 25 May, offering a share of £152,000 to projects across the district that will reduce carbon emissions and foster community engagement around climate change.

The scheme is open to Parish Councils and a wide range of community groups, offering grants of between £2,000 and £19,500. The [web site](#) includes detailed guidance on how to apply and examples of previous successful projects. The closing date for applications is 24 July. There will be two online workshops for potential applicants on Wednesday 20 May from 12.30–1.30pm and 6–7pm. You can sign up at the link above.

I encourage all Parish Councils and community groups to consider applying for funds to help develop sustainable facilities in our villages. Since its launch in 2019, the grant scheme has funded 82 different projects, awarding over £855,000 to initiatives across the district. Successful previous applicants include Fowlmere Parish Council (to install cycle stands around the village) and Fowlmere Village Hall (to renew its lighting to become more energy efficient).

## **South Cambridgeshire markets**

[A new report](#) commissioned by the council along with Cambridge City Council examines the role of markets in the Greater Cambridge area, highlighting the economic and cultural contribution of the 17 South Cambridgeshire markets operating today and defining a roadmap for their future growth and sustainability. It provides useful material for any project to relaunch the markets that have operated previously in this ward.

## **Community Watercourse Maintenance Grants**

Cambridgeshire County Council is offering grants of up to £10,000 to support community-led maintenance of watercourses that help reduce local flood risk. These grants are aimed at areas where ownership is unclear or complex, making regular upkeep difficult. Eligible groups include parish councils and community flood groups with active plans to improve water flow and prevent flooding. I encourage Parish Councils and community groups to apply [at this link](#).

## **New reporting app for council tenants**

The council is launching a new mobile app developed in partnership with our contractor, Mears, offering council tenants a quicker and more convenient way to report repairs. The app is called 'M&Me' and allows tenants to lodge repair requests, book appointments and receive live updates about their repairs. Over the coming weeks, Mears will be writing to all tenants with full details about the new app. The aim is to improve efficiency and bring greater convenience for residents, but please let me know if you experience any problems using the new system.

## **Water audits for council tenants**

The council is offering free audits to council tenants in partnership with Control Flow Technologies to help tenants reduce water use and lower their bills. For some households, this could mean savings of up to £360 a year. Tenants will be contacted directly with information on how to book their water audit. For further information, contact Zoe Cox, Housing Systems & Innovations Team Leader ([zoe.cox@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:zoe.cox@scamb.gov.uk)).

## **Street cleaning schedule**

The [next scheduled period for street cleaning](#) in our ward is 18–29 May. 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](#).

## **East West Rail consultation**

The East West Rail company have announced details of their [final consultation](#) on plans for the railway, which runs from 14 April to 9 June. This will be the last opportunity for our communities to have their say on the plans and help shape the final design. There is an in-person event scheduled on 1 May from 2–7pm at Great Shelford Rugby Club, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, CB22 5JJ.