

District Council Report for August & September 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@scambs.gov.uk.

Council reaches carbon emission target

South Cambridgeshire District Council [has reduced net greenhouse gas emissions](#) from the services and facilities it runs by 45.3% since 2018, hitting a milestone in reductions set in its [2020 Zero Carbon Strategy](#). The strategy includes a further target to reduce estate and operations emissions by at least 75% by 2030.

Heydon Neighbourhood Plan adopted

Congratulations to Heydon Parish Council on the adoption of [their Neighbourhood Plan](#) on 16 July. This is the culmination of several years' hard work by parish councillors and the planning team. It will help to protect this rural part of our district that contains some of the finest views across Cambridgeshire.

CPCA bus service review

The Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) launched a consultation in June on 'reimagining' the bus services across Cambridgeshire to implement the mayor's commitment to freeze the mayoral Council Tax precept, and to adjust services in the run up to the introduction of franchising. The precept freeze reduces funding by the rate of inflation (around 3–4% per year) so the required cuts are significant over the four-year mayoral term. The consultation aimed to improve value for money by focusing more closely on areas of greatest need and usage. This coincides with the expansion of the CPCA's Tiger on Demand service to replace less frequent conventional bus services.

[The proposals following this consultation](#) were published on 3 September in the [agenda for the September CPCA Transport Committee meeting](#). Service 17 will be renumbered the 27 and, along with the 26, will cover a similar route to the previous combined 26 & 17 services. There will also be a rudimentary Sunday service, which has been requested for many years. However, the 26 will no longer serve Foxton, where the regular service is replaced with the Tiger on Demand service. Under these new arrangements, Foxton will be connected to Cambridge & Addenbrooke's Hospital by 31 direct weekday rail services, plus Tiger on Demand, and Fowlmere will have 13 direct weekday bus services to Cambridge and 4 to Addenbrooke's Hospital.

I will be asking for the Tiger on Demand service to be extended to include Melbourn (currently just outside the zone) as it is important as a local destination for surrounding villages, including Foxton. The report does not make it clear whether the single daily bus service from Heydon & Great Chishill to Cambridge and back will be retained. I am seeking clarification on this.

Road closures and bus service update

Since mid July, the Greater Cambridge Partnership has been undertaking major road works on the A10 which has led to a prolonged closure of the Fowlmere–Shepreth road on both sides of the A10 crossing. The diversion route for this work was initially very poorly signposted, leading to large amounts of traffic using Mill Road, the single track route between Fowlmere and Melbourn. After persistent requests from Fowlmere Parish Council and myself, the signage was improved, but this closure is still causing significant problems for the whole area.

I received only a week's notice of the closure, as did Fowlmere and Foxton Parish Councils. It appeared at first that the bus service to Fowlmere would be suspended for the duration of this work (about two months). However, working with Fowlmere Parish Council, I managed to agree an alternative route with the bus operator to keep the services running.

I will be asking for a proper retrospective analysis on the handling of this closure to avoid a repeat of the chaos on this occasion.

Mayors to be given Planning powers

The government [announced on 23 August](#) that mayors are to be given the power to override Local Planning Authority decisions on large housing developments as part of the [government's devolution proposals](#). This will affect schemes with more than 150 homes, more than 15,000 square metres of commercial space, and buildings over 30 metres.

Decisions must still follow the planning rules, the local plan, and national policy. Applicants keep the right of appeal, and ministers retain a backstop power to intervene themselves.

Mayors outside London will also be able to charge a levy on development to fund major infrastructure, using the same tool that helped deliver the Elizabeth line, which has boosted rail capacity, supported housing growth and regeneration, and become the UK's busiest railway service.

Local Government Reorganisation

We are expecting a decision from the government in October on which option will be chosen from those presented last year. I will give an update once I have more information.

Home Energy Upgrade Guide

A new edition of the [Home Energy Upgrade Guide](#) for residents across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is now available. The guide has been developed through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP), working as Action on Energy, a partnership of local authorities across the region and is funded by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). It provides practical information to help residents improve the comfort and energy efficiency of their homes. It includes advice tailored to different house types, information on insulation, heating systems and renewable technologies, guidance on when to seek professional support, and details of available grants and services. Please help publicise this to residents.