District Council Report for November 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.

Christmas Market 2026

Plans are well underway for this year's South Cambridgeshire Christmas Market, which will return to Cambourne Village College on Sunday 6 December 2026, running from 11am to 3pm with free entry. Now in its fifth year, the indoor market will once again bring together local traders and independent businesses, celebrating the brilliant businesses and talent we have across South Cambridgeshire. This year the market will fill three large halls with local traders showcasing a varied selection of products. There will also be food vendors outside serving hot and festive refreshments, giving visitors the chance to enjoy something tasty while exploring the market.

New planning delegation scheme

The government has introduced a new National Scheme of Delegation that the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service is now obliged to follow along with all other planning services, replacing the existing delegation system. The rules about which decisions must be determined under delegated powers are now more rigid. The planning service explained the new scheme for Parish Councils in an online presentation on 28 October, which was recorded and can be viewed here. There is also some guidance available from the government on the changes.

Consultation on Corporate Action Plan for 2027/28

A new consultation gives people the opportunity to share their views on council issues affecting our communities, and the actions they believe would bring the biggest benefit across the district.

Feedback will help shape the Council's budget and priorities for 2027/28, including investment in areas such as community wellbeing, affordable housing, climate action, support for local businesses and protecting the natural environment. The Council wants to hear from as many residents, businesses and community groups as possible before final decisions are made. The consultation closes on 8 December.

Consultation on taxi licensing policy changes

Proposed changes to South Cambridgeshire District Council's Taxi Licensing Policy aim to make journeys even safer for both passengers and drivers. Residents, visitors, taxi drivers, operators and businesses are being invited to share their views before any final decisions are made. The consultation closes on 29 November.

Local Government Reoganisation

The latest update from ministers on 29 October confirmed that local elections for existing councils in Cambridgeshire (in Cambridge and East Cambridgeshire) will go ahead in May 2027 as sheduled, with elections to the new Unitary Authorities now scheduled for May 2028. The details of these new authorities are now expected to be announced early in 2027. Transitional funding of £500k was also announced for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We are seeking clarification around this as it had previously been announced that all areas would receive £900k of transitional funding for each new Unitary Authority.

Pumpkin collection

It's estimated that in the UK 30 million pumpkins will be carved this year, with over half of them destined to end up in black bins headed for landfill. Greater Cambridge Shared Waste is encouraging residents to eat their pumpkins where possible – sharing recipes for soup, curry, risotto and more, and the service is gearing up to collect as many discarded pumpkins as possible in, or alongside, Food Waste Caddies from 3 to 6 November. Only one bag will be collected per household with the caddy. Residents are encouraged to home compost if possible and not to leave pumpkins outside as wildlife charities say that they are not a natural food to British wildlife and can cause harm to hedgehogs.

Additional Community Chest funding

An additional £20k is set to be invested in South Cambridgeshire District Council's popular Community Chest grant scheme, helping more local groups deliver projects that benefit people across the district. This is in response to strong demand for the original £65k of funding for the current year, which has almost all now been allocated.

Congratulations to Foxton Bowls Club for their successful bid for £2k to purchase smaller, lighter bowls to make the sport more inclusive for younger players and people with disabilities.

Planning officer availability for parish council meetings

As a reminder to parish councils, the planning officers at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning are available for meetings with parish councillors and to attend parish council meetings where required. This also applies if there are any concerns about matters of Planning Compliance. I am happy to help facilitate any meetings or request the attendance of officers at parish council meetings if this would be useful.