Councillor Peter McDonald
District Councillor for Parishes of Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford.
County Councillor for Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow & Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills, Whittlesford

Parish Council Report November 2026

Cambs County Council

Cost of Living Support

As we move into winter the CoL support from County has been updated. The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) supports low-income households who are experiencing financial hardship and financial shock. It helps them build financial resilience and community support over time. It is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The funding will last for three years between 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 and has replaced the Household Support Fund (HSF).

Crisis and Resilience Fund in Cambridgeshire

At Cambridgeshire County Council, we have committed to using this fund to support households and individuals facing financial hardship. We also aim to build financial resilience amongst our communities. There are currently two routes to access crisis support through this fund:
Help with the cost of heating oil - Oil Crisis & Resilience Fund: Support with heating oil costs - Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. https://www.cambscf.org.uk/funds/crisis-resilience/
Help with other essentials can be found at:
Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire Citizen Advice Bureau.
https://www.cambridgecab.org.uk/about-us/our-projects/#crisis-and-resilience-fund

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living

EHCP Funding

It has been agreed to commit up to £2M to tackle the long waiting times for families applying for Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) assessment in Cambridgeshire.
The Special Educational Needs (SEND) team has been trying to operate fairly by working to increase the percentage of assessments completed within the statutory 20-week timeframe while also prioritising applications from those who have been waiting the longest.

The council's latest data confirms that total plans delivered this year has increased significantly compared with 2025 (from an average of 38 per month January-May 2025, to 96 per month January-July 2026). However, over the same period, new assessment requests have also continued to rise (from an average of 159 per month to 208 per month) – resulting in a net increase (of 784 applications) to the current backlog.
Consequently, to tackle the long waiting times for EHCP assessments in Cambridgeshire, the committee unanimously supported investment of up to £2M in a new recovery programme over 12 months.
The recovery programme would commence with immediate effect, prioritising the longest-waiting and highest-risk cases while also tracking incoming demand and recently delayed assessments.

Contact Details: E mail: peter.mcdonald@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Telephone 07912 669092

The report received by the committee confirmed separately that £4.837m had been released by the council to support mainstream schools experiencing the greatest pressure from delayed EHCP assessments. The committee papers considered at the recent meeting can be found on our website and it was live streamed on our YouTube channel.

Children in Care Awards

On Friday 9 October, more than 120 children, young people, carers and supporters came together at Inflatebounce in Huntingdon to celebrate the achievements of Cambridgeshire's children in care. The annual Children in Care Celebration and Awards is an opportunity for Cambridgeshire County Council to recognise and celebrate the successes, talents and achievements of children and young people in its care.

Foster Carer Awards recognise 450 years of service

More than 50 foster carers were recognised at an awards ceremony held at Burgess Hall in St Ives for their dedication to supporting Cambridgeshire's children in care. The Foster Carer Awards provide an opportunity for Cambridgeshire County Council to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary commitment of the council's foster carers and the difference they make. This year, the awards recognised 45 different fostering households, celebrating milestones of five, ten, fifteen, twenty and fifty years of dedicated service.

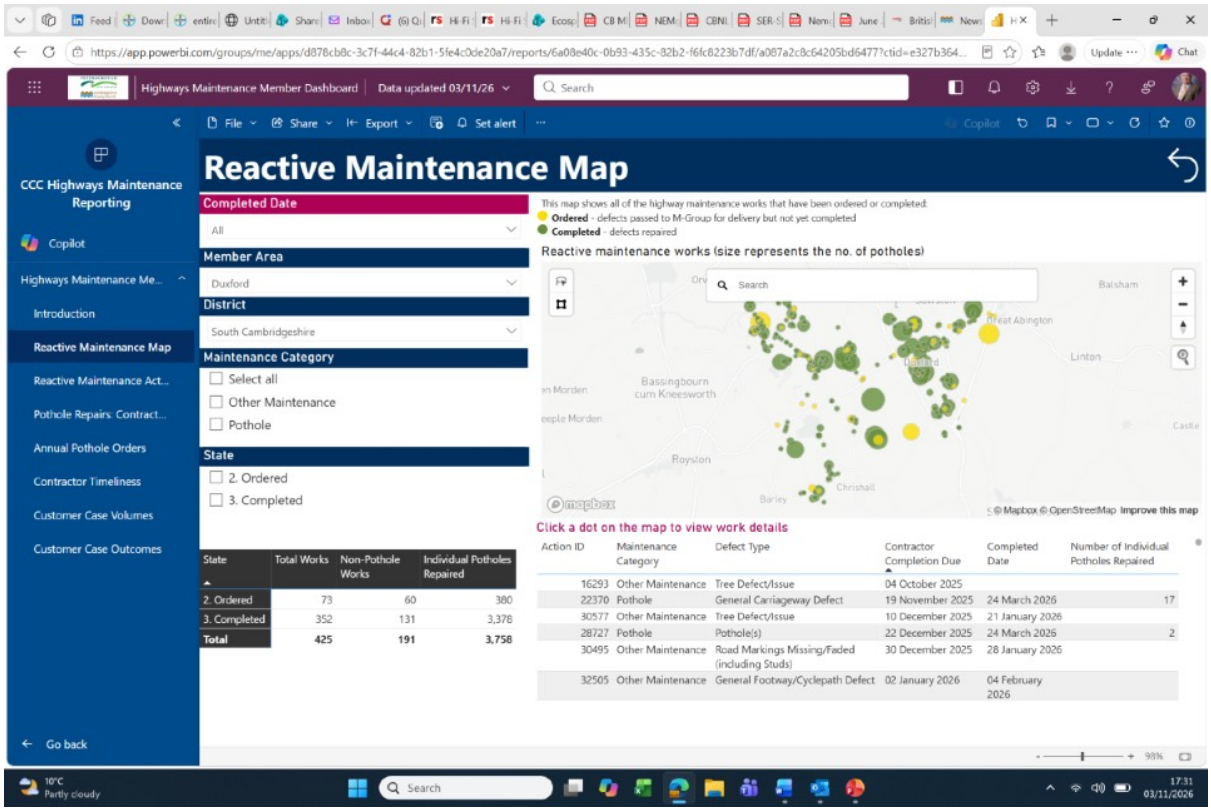
Together, these fostering households have contributed more than 450 years of collective fostering service, reflecting decades of care and support for local children and young people.

New Highways Dashboard

Snapshot for Duxford Division end October

Previous number was 396 and now 425 in the month

Councillor Peter McDonald
District Councillor for Parishes of Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford.
County Councillor for Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow & Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills, Whittlesford



Peter McDonald Nov 3rd 2026

Contact Details: E mail: peter.mcdonald@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Telephone 07912 669092