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 October 2026

Cambs County Council

Budget & Spending

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched a public engagement survey to ask for residents' opinions on where it should prioritise spending and savings in the years ahead.

Every year, the council must set a legal budget which balances spending needs against income from council tax, which accounts for around one-third of council funding, business rates, government grants, and fees and charges for some services. These funding sources collectively support a wide range of services including children's and adult social care, education and SEND services, libraries, highways, public health, regulatory services and waste management and recycling.

With a growing population and rising demand for services, particularly in children's social care and SEND services, the council continues to face difficult decisions about how to balance all of priorities at a time when costs also continue to rise.

The majority of our day-to-day spending is required to support children's and adult social care, education and SEND, and with the remainder the council has to maintain the highways network and deliver valued community-based services, including libraries and registration services. In addition to these challenges and achieving the right balance between investing and saving, the council also faces ongoing uncertainty about the Government's plans for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The draft Business Plan will propose a budget for 2027-28 and set out our medium term financial strategy through to 2029-30 focussed upon delivering the council's vision of a healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire and the three ambitions of our Strategic Framework. The Engagement Survey will be in two phases. Phase 1 closes on 15 November 2026.

Follow this link to have your say: Business Plan and Budget 2027-28 to 2029-30: Phase 1 Engagement - Your Voice - Cambridgeshire County Council - Citizen Space
https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business-planning/27-28-phase-1-engagement/

Flood Warnings

As the season changes into autumn, Cambridgeshire County Council is urging local residents to think about whether their property is at risk of flooding and take time to prepare for potential flooding.

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

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Anyone can check whether their property is at risk of flooding by visiting the Gov.uk website. https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/location/cambridge-cambridgeshire

By typing in a postcode you can discover the long-term risk of flooding in that area, how climate change might increase the chance of flooding and how to manage a flood risk.

The County Council suggests the following steps if your home is at risk of flooding:

- Sign up for flood warnings.
- Ensure your insurance covers flooding/ flood damage.
- Keep valuables and important documents upstairs or on higher shelves.
- Consider installing special equipment to help keep water out of your house.
- Prepare a flood kit that includes essential items that you might need if you're going to be away from your home for a few days.
- If you have a watercourse such as a stream, ditch, river or brook next to your property, make sure it's clear of any debris and is running fully

Roadworks Overruns

The number of days roadworks overran in Cambridgeshire fell by almost half during 2025/26, as Cambridgeshire County Council stepped up enforcement, issuing more than £424,000 in fines and charges to utility companies and other organisations.

The council issued 1,443 Fixed Penalty Notices, generating £196,286, for offences including working without the necessary permit or failing to comply with permit conditions.A further £228,350 was recovered through charges for works that overran their agreed duration.

The number of days that works overran fell from 1,191 days in 2024/25 to 692 days in 2025/26, a reduction of almost 42%. The decrease suggests that enforcement activity and overrun charges are encouraging companies to complete works within agreed timescales and helping to reduce disruption for road users.

In total, the council issued 36,685 permits during 2025/26, regulating when and how works could take place across the county. In Cambridgeshire there are 51 utility companies that are permitted to work on our roads – and when that work is deemed an emergency, such as for a burst water main, they can legally start work before notifying the council.

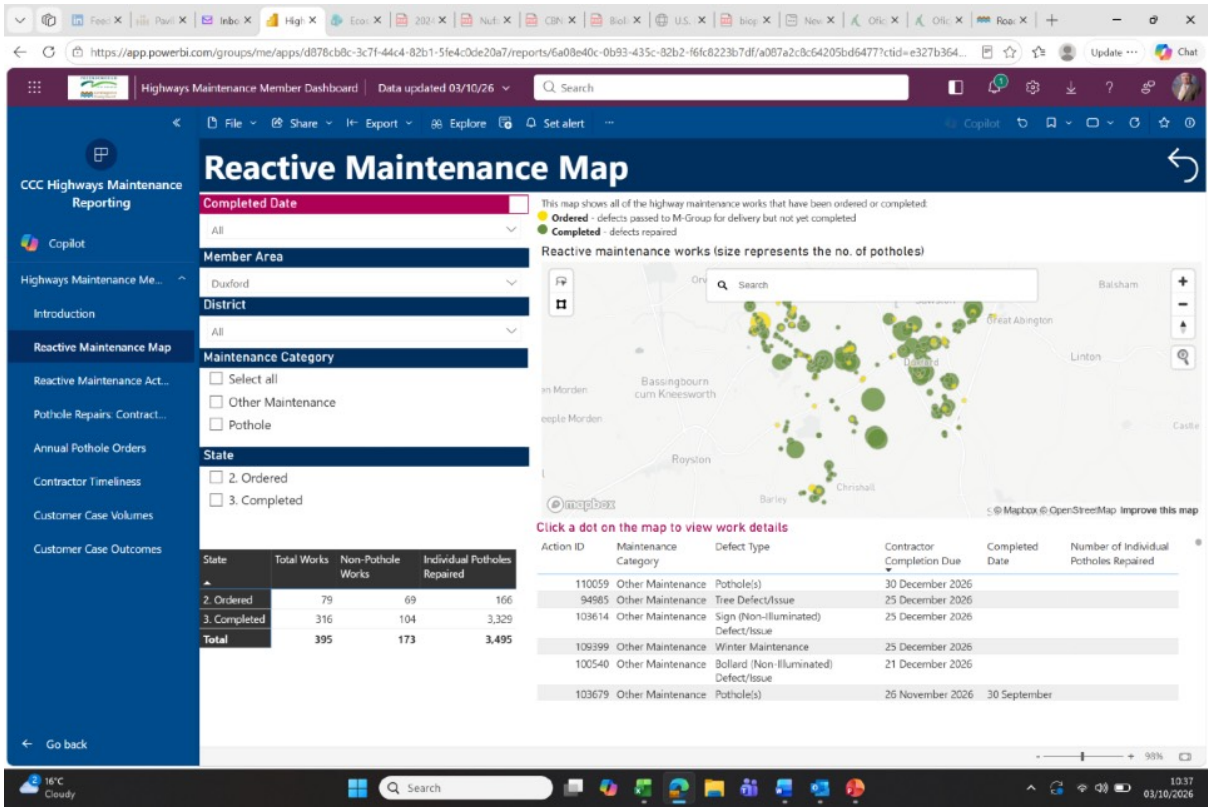
New Highways Dashboard

Snapshot for Duxford Division end September

Previous number was 334 and now 396 in the month

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Peter McDonald Oct 5th 2026

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