

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 April 2026

South Cambs Council

Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) Scheme

SCDC has committed another £152,000 to the popular ZCC grant scheme. The amount that applicants can apply for has risen from £15,000 per project to £19,500. Since the scheme was launched in 2019, it has supported 82 different projects, awarding over £855,000 to initiatives across the district including energy generation and efficiency, conservation measures at community buildings, community cycling events, cycle shelters, food waste reduction initiatives, community allotment and gardening projects.

The application window will open on Monday 25 May and close on Friday 24 July 2026. Projects on school sites and by parent / teacher associations will be able to apply – if there is a benefit to the wider community. Those interested in applying for a Zero Carbon Communities grant can join a workshop to find out more. Two sessions are to be held on Wednesday 20 May - one running from 12:30pm to 1:30pm and a second one from 6pm to 7pm. Potential applicants are encouraged to [register for either](#).

Food Collections

We are now well into the roll out of the programme. A reminder that the dates are now included in the overall bin schedule and a reminder of what can and cant be put in these.

Bin dates for 4 Maynards, Whittlesford, CB224PN

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- Your next black bin (rubbish) collection is on **Tuesday 14 April 2026**
 - Your next blue bin (recycling) collection is on **Tuesday 21 April 2026**
 - Your next green bin (garden) collection is on **Tuesday 21 April 2026**
 - Your next food caddy (food waste) collection is on **Tuesday 12 May 2026**
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2 WHAT CAN I PUT IN MY CADDY?

You can recycle all your food waste, including the following:

 food waste	✓ All uneaten food and plate scrapings	 dairy	✓ Dairy products ✓ Cheese ✓ Eggs	 bread & pastries	✓ Bread ✓ Cakes ✓ Pastries
 meat & bones	✓ Raw meat ✓ Cooked meat ✓ Bones	 tea & coffee grounds	✓ Tea bags ✓ Coffee grounds	 fruit & vegetables	✓ Raw vegetables ✓ Cooked vegetables ✓ Whole fruit ✓ Peelings
 fish	✓ Fish ✓ Cooked fish ✓ Bones	 rice, pasta & beans	✓ Rice ✓ Pasta ✓ Beans	Remember to recycle your mouldy and out of date food, including ready meals removed from their packaging	

Please do not put any of these items in your caddy

- ✗ Packaging of any kind (except plastic liners)
- ✗ Liquids such as milk
- ✗ Oil or liquid fat
- ✗ Anything that is not food waste



Cancellation of non-responding postal votes

SCDC officers and councillors have, for several months, been campaigning to warn residents of the expiry of postal votes, which is a legal requirement and happens every three years. The deadline to apply for an extension has now passed and the postal votes of 4,266 residents have had to be cancelled (of the original 15,392 that required renewal) which represents a 72.28% positive response rate. All affected voters will receive a letter to inform them of this change and will also include details on how they might make a new application to vote by post if they wish. Applications need to be received by 5pm on 21 April 2026 to get a postal vote for the 7 May 2026 elections.

If you have any questions, please email elections@scambs.gov.uk.

New Local Markets Study

New independent research has highlighted the vital role markets play in community life and details steps to help them thrive in Greater Cambridge.

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

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Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils jointly commissioned the [Greater Cambridge Market Economic and Social Impact Assessment](#) which sets out how traditional retail markets contribute to the area's economy, strengthen communities and enrich local culture.

The assessment highlights the vital contribution of the three Cambridge and 17 South Cambridgeshire markets and sets a roadmap for their future growth and sustainability.

The report reflects extensive engagement with traders, residents, market shoppers, community organisations and local businesses, and demonstrates that traditional markets across the region not only support employment and apprenticeship opportunities, but also enrich local character, strengthen community interaction, and give people access to diverse products - including produce that might otherwise be unavailable locally.

Key findings from the report include:

- Economic and social value: Markets contribute to the sub-region's economy by creating jobs and supporting small businesses, while fostering vibrant community spaces.
- Local identity and connections: Markets act as focal points for community interaction and help sustain the distinctive culture of Greater Cambridge.
- Opportunities and challenges: While the benefits are clear, the research notes that market trading can be fragile. Some traders face challenges in sourcing produce locally and therefore have to bring in produce from further afield, impacting how sustainable their business model can be.

The report sets out a range of recommendations designed to harness and strengthen the role of markets in meeting broader strategic goals, from sustainable food systems to economic inclusion and place-making.

These recommendations include:

- Celebrating market community value and business opportunities.
- Supporting and developing existing markets, with a view to exploring new opportunities, especially where gaps in provision currently exist.
- Embedding dedicated market policies within the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan and neighbourhood plans.
- Ensuring markets are part of new development proposals and local planning decisions.
- Maximising markets' contribution to sustainable food strategies and environmental goals, including improvements to recycling facilities and waste management.

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- A role for local councils who operate or support markets in fostering stronger partnership working between markets and local businesses to boost footfall and economic linkages.

The emerging [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#) recognises the social and economic value of markets and has a policy that seeks to protect and enhance markets and street trading, particularly in the Market Square, and All Saints Garden in Cambridge.

As part of supporting local markets, the two councils have run a markets programme since 2023 which has provided tailored mentoring, training and financial support to help both new and established traders start, strengthen and grow sustainable businesses across Greater Cambridge's markets. The programme was enabled by UK Government Shared Prosperity Funding, which was administered locally by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined authority.

This successful programme has been extended for 2025/26, with an investment of £110,000 opened to market traders across Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and now includes Huntingdonshire.

The [Market Traders Growth Programme](#) will support 40 traders with £40,000 allocated for specialist consultancy support, and a further £40,000 set aside for grants of £1,000 per trader - bringing the total to £80,000. This programme will be supporting established traders who had been operating for at least a year, offering personalised advice, practical workshops and tailored support to help traders develop growth plans, improve resilience, explore sustainability and access funding.

The [Future Markets Trader Programme](#) will support 10 new traders, with £25,000 for consultancy support and £5,000 for grants of £500 per trader- bringing the total for this programme to £30,000. This programme supports aspiring and early-stage traders to establish and grow their businesses in Greater Cambridge's traditional markets, providing tailored business advice, one-to-one mentoring and practical guidance, alongside small grants to help cover essential start-up costs and give new traders the best chance of long-term success.

Cambs County Council

Strategic Vision

Healthy, fair and sustainable – Cambridgeshire County Council's bold new vision for the county launched 1st April, setting out a clear commitment to delivering real outcomes that enhance daily life for people across our county. Approved by Full Council in February, this new direction is informed by resident feedback gathered through the council's annual Quality of Life survey.

This vision guides everything the Council does from today until 2028/2029: the decisions it makes, the services it delivers, and the partnerships it works with. It reflects our commitment to having a positive impact on everyone who lives, works and travels in Cambridgeshire, ensuring that the outcomes we deliver genuinely improve people's lives and strengthen our

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communities. It will help ensure Cambridgeshire is well prepared for the changes and challenges to come including Local Government Reorganisation. The vision is supported by the Strategic Framework and its three key ambitions, which together provide a clear, consistent direction for the years ahead.

Below is the video and the strategic framework slides

<https://youtu.be/sN9oDNwv7do?si=Uu4HuIKrwXcbnVL0>

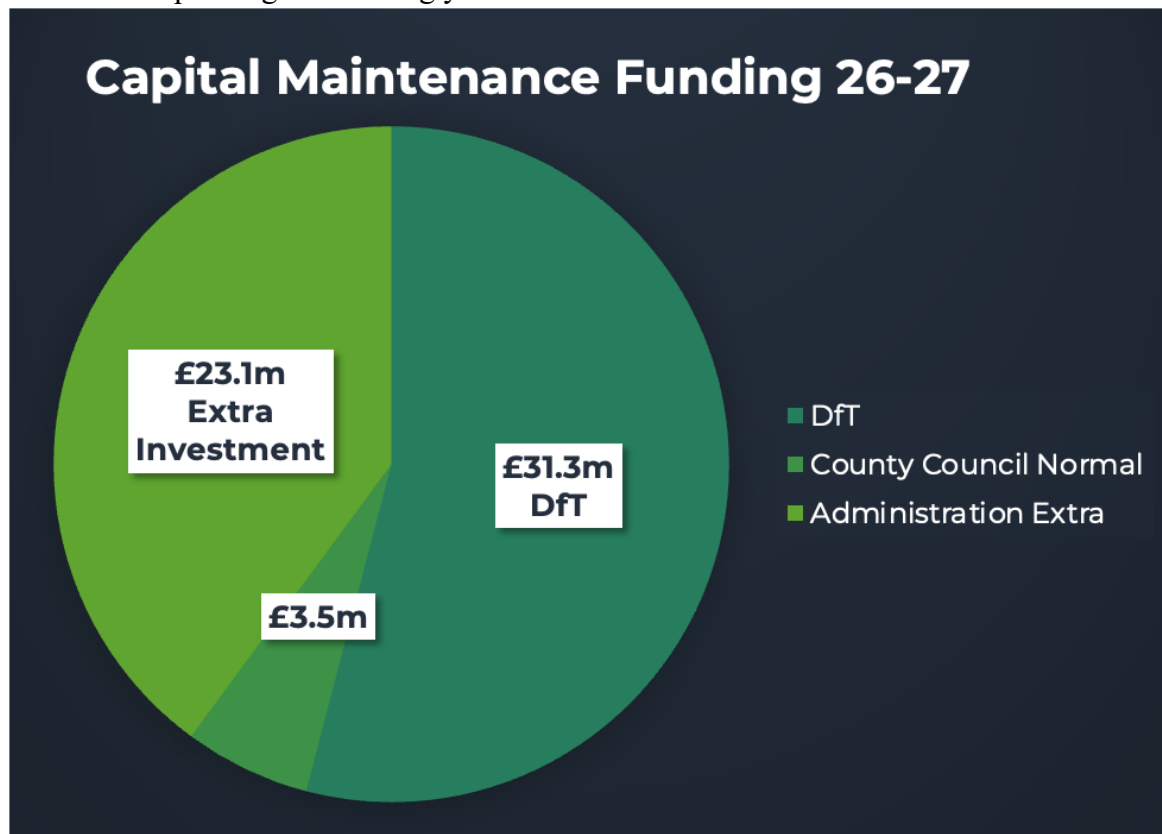
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/business-plan-section-1-strategic-framework-2026-29.pdf>

Highways

Cllr Alex Beckett has published a Substack on the pothole situation

<https://notesfromalex.substack.com/p/why-are-the-roads-so-bad-right-now>

The overall spending this coming year is as follows.

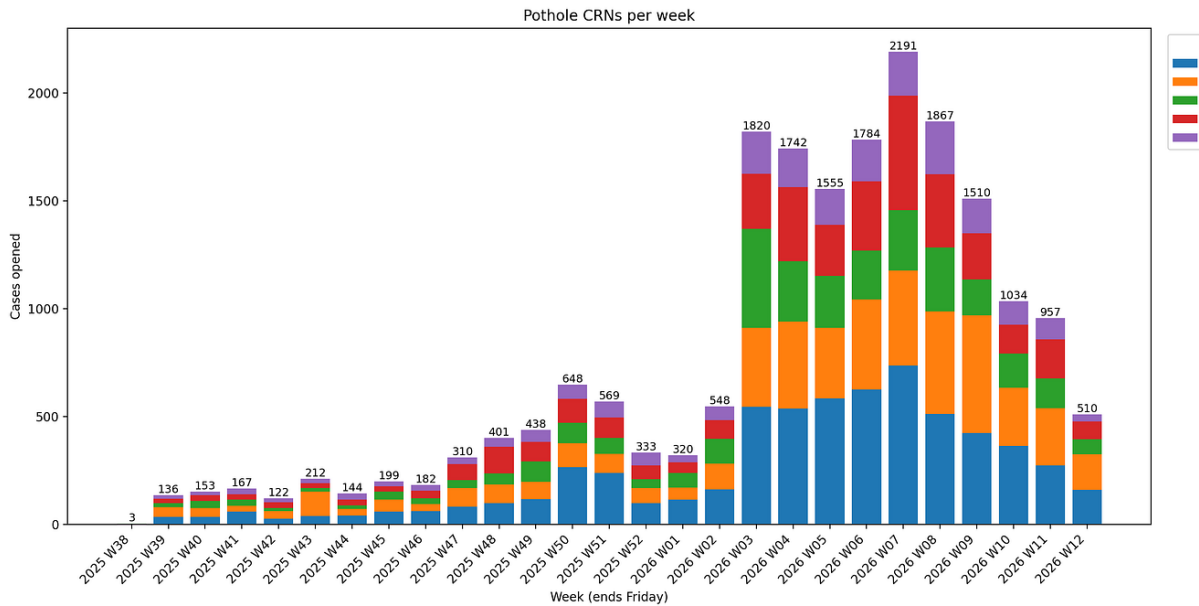


This is the pothole status in week 12 by area (S Cambs in Blue)

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Heating Oil Support

Government funding has been made available for low-income families who heat their homes with oil to help tackle surging prices.



Funded by UK Government

This targeted financial support, will help low-income households in rural communities who have no choice but to top up their tanks at a time when prices have risen so significantly.

Eligible households in Cambridgeshire can apply for a grant to support with these costs through the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF).

How to apply

- [Apply online at Crisis & Resilience Fund: Cambridgeshire Community Foundation](#)
- Residents can apply direct.
- Or by a referral organisation that has assessed your circumstances and can verify that you need of immediate assistance.

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- All applicants will need to provide proof of address, income and the need to top-up with heating oil.

Who can apply

This fund is targeting Cambridgeshire households on low incomes who are reliant on heating oil and who need to top-up their tanks as a matter of urgency.

To receive this support, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- live in Cambridgeshire
- be reliant on heating oil to heat their home and/or water
- have 150 litres or less of oil remaining at the time of application
- be in receipt of or eligible for one of the following means-tested benefits:
 - Universal Credit
 - Pension Credit
 - Income based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

If funding allows, we hope to expand the scheme at a later date to households on incomes just above the threshold for means-tested benefits, or with exceptionally high energy needs.

Applications to the fund will open on Monday 30 March. In the meantime, please see our webpage [Help with utility bills](#) for other ways to access support.

Peter McDonald April 8th 2026