



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
21ST JULY 2025 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr M Banyard, Mayor

Cllr R Denness

Cllr D Warman

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr S Sandhu

Cllr L Fox

Cllr M Wade

Cllr R Ward

County Cllr A Whelan

Dr J Allen, Director of the Ely Stained Glass Museum

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Holtzmann, Moss-Eccardt, Ní Dhónaill, Phillips and Trent. The reasons for their absences were accepted.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH JUNE 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 9th June 2025 were proposed by Cllr Denness that they be agreed and signed as a true record, subject to the amendment to a word on page 2167, line 3, from carriage to carriageway. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172 and 2173 refer. Matters Arising:- Page 2167, item 11 (iii) – Cllr Fox requested it be noted that Barbara-Ann Brown, the local representative of Cycling UK in the Cycle Advocacy Network was co-opted onto the Working Group to assist with the review of cycling within the city not to develop a cycle plan for the city. Page 2165 – The Chairman informed councillors he had attended a memorial service at St Mary's Church for Richard Bamford, who had been a past councillor and Mayor. Page 2165, item 4 – two new Ambassador badges had been ordered and received. One has been passed to Cllr Phillips to wear when he undertakes this role.

5. PRESENTATION BY DR JASMINE ALLEN, DIRECTOR OF THE ELY STAINED GLASS MUSEUM

Dr Allen gave a brief history of the Museum, which had been founded in the 1972. It is the longest standing attraction in Ely and they are the guardians of English heritage. She had been with the Museum for the past 13 years. They engage with the local communities and school children and feel that it should be available to everyone, providing at least one session free. She said that financially it was getting harder to compete and she wanted to make the Council aware of this. They do have accessibility issues to get to

5. PRESENTATION BY DR JASMINE ALLEN, DIRECTOR OF THE ELY STAINED GLASS MUSEUM continued

the Museum and would like to relocate in the next 5-10 years and develop a national centre for the discovery, appreciation and conservation of stained glass. Councillors did remind her that she could apply through the Council's grant scheme for financial support, but this would be much smaller than what they really need. Councillors felt it was a wonderful Museum and wanted to be supportive if this was possible. She invited all councillors to visit the Museum and talk to her further about their situation. The Chairman thanked her for attending.

Dr Allen left the meeting at 7.27 pm.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman informed councillors that Will Novick had resigned as a councillor today. This is with immediate effect. The Clerk will notify ECDC and the proper process undertaken to fill the vacancy. He reminded councillors of Pride on the 9th August and hoped that councillors would be able to volunteer to help with the Council stall. He thanked Cllr Trent who had made some boards for public interaction for the stall.

7. QUESTION TIME

As there were no members of the public present, there were no questions raised.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report for June was received from County Cllrs C Whelan and A Whelan. This was presented by Cllr A Whelan. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. Cllr Fox suggested that a letter should be sent to the leaders of the Councils stating that this Council would wish to see East Cambs District Council go with Cambridge and not Peterborough. It was agreed that Cllrs Fox and Wade would draft this and circulate to all members for approval. District Councillor C Whelan had also prepared a written report with regards to District Council matters. A copy of which will also be attached to the minutes. District Cllrs Trent and Wade had nothing further to report.

9. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the Bishop's Garden Party – schools and businesses; the Bishop's Garden Party – civic leaders; Thetford Town Council Civic Reception; closing ceremony at the Armed Forces Day; St Ives Civic Service; Pos+Ability AGM; Ely Arts Festival Africa concert at Ely Cathedral; Ely Cathedral Mother's Union; Ely Choral Society performance; Aquafest; Ely Folk Festival; Wisbech Castle for Wisbech Council event; Ramsey Town Council event; Royal Anglian Regiment Association service in Ely Cathedral; Ely College event in Ely Cathedral and played diversity tennis with students from Highfields School. The Deputy Chairman had attended the Armed Forces Day.

10. PLANNING

Cllr Morgan as the Planning Committee Chairman gave a report on the planning meetings which had been held since the last meeting and prior to this meeting. Cllr Morgan informed Councillors that the developers of Highflyer Farm had attended prior to this evening's planning meeting. Three councillors had been in attendance.

11. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Road Closures – Lynn Road, Ely – 18 – 21.08.25 (new electrical connection)

Street Naming – 69A, 69B, 77, 78,79 & 80 Nigel Road, Ely; 35A Gunning Road, Ely; 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 33A, 33B, 33C, 33D Heaton Drive, Ely; 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D Heaton Close, Ely; Redman Close, Ely; 1A St Andrew's Way, Ely

Addition to the schedule for roads subject to a 20 mph speed limit:- Comice Way, Mirabelle Close and Chelsea Drive. There will also be an amendment to record the existing 20 mph and 30 mph speed limits along the length of Damson Avenue. No changes to existing speed limits are being proposed by this variation Order.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – Cllr Ward presented a report of an Extraordinary meeting held on the 7th July 2025, which was noted and approved. Councillors voted on the decision for the urgent replacement of the Maltings' boilers with only one quote, as per section 5.13 of the Council's Financial Regulations and agreed with this decision, as this was approved, with two abstentions and the rest in favour. The contract award had been advertised on Contracts Finder. The minutes of the CIL Sub-Committee meeting held on the 23rd June 2025 were noted and approved. The recommendation to fund the replacement boilers and radiators at the Maltings, at a cost of £80,000 from CIL funds was unanimously approved.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 4th August 2025.

(iii) ASSETS – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 11th August 2025.

(iv) TOURISM – Cllr Warman presented a report of a meeting held on the 16th June 2025, which was noted and approved. The complaint regarding the digital sign at Forehill was discussed in great length with councillors considering the costs which the Tourism and Events Manager had provided since the Tourism Committee meeting. Councillors felt they needed to obtain more information regarding the board before a decision could be made. It was agreed that the Council needed to obtain data from the board as to the usage, as it was agreed they needed to understand how well used the board was. There were also concerns regarding the cost of removal of the board as this was not within any budgets. This was referred back to the next Tourism Committee meeting for further discussion, once all the data had been obtained. The Clerk will update the MP's Assistant with this decision. The update on the service was noted. The relocation of the staff to Sessions House during the building works at OCH was referred to the Full Council for further discussion as the Tourism and Events Manager had been tasked to investigate the use of a High Street shop and provide costings for this. Councillors were provided with information from the Tourism and Events Manager with regard to the hire of a Portakabin which would be sited in St Mary's Church grounds as there were no shops available. A report on this proposal and costings were considered and concerns were raised about the cost and the ability to get planning permission for the Portakabin. After a lengthy discussion, Cllr Sandhu proposed that staff should be relocated to Sessions House as this would be the most cost effective option. This was seconded by Cllr Ward and unanimously agreed.

13. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

The Chairman reported that the Ribe Association would have a soft opening of the Ribe Foyer on the 15th September before the start of the Planning Committee meeting. He requested that councillors attend.

14. TO CONSIDER ECDC'S STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY – 5 YEAR REVIEW CONSULTATION

Councillors unanimously agreed not to make any comments on this consultation.

15. FINANCE

Cllr Morgan proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Wade and unanimously approved.

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	524.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2295.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	299.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	200.00	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	77.51	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	258.76	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	2799.13	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	108.17	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	31.58	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	267.13	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	5155.42	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1789.31	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	49.60	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1890.14	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	285.47	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	121.82	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	85.39	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	108.73	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	684.68	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Solutions	79.75	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	66.60	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	77.51	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	73.46	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	73.46	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	339.26	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1187.86	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	302.99	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	1261.64	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	353.77	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	76.34	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	30.56	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	213.40	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	5429.12	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	183.38	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	93.24	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	82.21	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	64.10	Paid by direct debit

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	65.95	Paid by BACS
Ely Tool Hire Ltd	432.00	Paid by BACS
Soham Pest Control	99.00	Paid by BACS
Yandell Publishing	1632.96	Paid by BACS
Beau Business Media Ltd	240.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	2850.00	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	46.10	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	769.56	Paid by BACS
Thompson Media Partners Ltd	270.00	Paid by BACS
Anglia Sprayers Ltd	407.25	Paid by BACS
HMRC	13672.34	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	216.51	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1478.46	Paid by BACS
Mayor of Huntingdon	30.00	Paid by BACS
Kompan Ltd	170.40	Paid by BACS
G & J Peck Ltd	70.43	Paid by BACS
Whitespace Publishers Ltd	2398.80	Paid by BACS
Caterfix Ltd	270.00	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	164.84	Paid by BACS
Bryan Lecoche Ltd	7058.45	Paid by BACS
Hilgay Silver Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
PCC of Ely Parish St Mary's Church	164.40	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	180.00	Paid by BACS
FenSCENE Magazine	330.00	Paid by BACS
Chambers & Fenner Ltd	1288.20	Paid by BACS
M Lansley	447.60	Paid by BACS
Nordwell Ltd	660.00	Paid by BACS
S A Wilson	250.00	Paid by BACS
Summer Garden & Leisure Buildings Ltd	339.00	Paid by BACS
ECDC	36.00	Paid by BACS
Mrs S Brignell	150.00	Paid by BACS
Mr R Delahaye	29.90	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	65.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	428.40	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	625.00	Paid by BACS
CSD Brass	250.00	Paid by BACS
Ramsey Town Council	64.00	Paid by BACS
Littleport Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
City of Cambridge Brass Band	350.00	Paid by BACS
Majestic Metals Ltd	204.00	Paid by BACS
Digital Tyneline Publications Ltd	1466.81	Paid by BACS
K Rowland	150.00	Paid by BACS
Calico Cottage	288.00	Paid by BACS
V Rudkin	379.25	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	54.00	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	190.92	Paid by BACS
Fen Farm Supplies	835.64	Paid by BACS
Nisbets Ltd	63.58	Paid by BACS

2178

.....
MAYOR
15th September 2025

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Bryan Lecoche Ltd	2793.79	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
Arco Ltd	409.34	Paid by BACS
Advanced Thinking Systems Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
Eden Farm Hulley's	193.81	Paid by BACS
East Cambs Trading Co Ltd	1571.71	Paid by BACS
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	334.00	Paid by BACS
John Audus Ltd	1150.97	Paid by BACS
City Cycle Centre	98.70	Paid by BACS
ESPO	154.68	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Business Sols Ltd	324.37	Paid by BACS
Securitas Security Services Ltd	71.15	Paid by BACS
W H Darby Ltd	474.00	Paid by BACS
CoolerAid Ltd	121.41	Paid by BACS
ECDC	1388.03	Paid by BACS
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	799.99	Paid by BACS
L E Enterprizes	595.00	Paid by BACS
Kevin Robinson	218.22	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Art	1155.00	Paid by BACS
Simpsons Nurseries Ltd	101.72	Paid by BACS
Millennium Pest Control Ltd	99.00	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Business Sols Ltd	84.29	Paid by BACS
Fen Farm Supplies Ltd	369.61	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	215.14	Paid by BACS
Gem Heating Solutions Ltd	13445.29	Paid by BACS
Newmarket Town Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
ECDC	1529.20	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
City of Ely Military Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	226.80	Paid by BACS

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

Amazon Payments UK Ltd	339.90	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	119.28	Paid by BACS
A Reddick	26.65	114775
S Jay	31.72	114776
Eden Farm Hulley's	525.36	Paid by BACS
Barclaycard	1272.05	Paid by direct debit
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	32.80	Paid by BACS
CoolerAid Ltd	154.56	Paid by BACS
G & Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1158.16	Paid by BACS
ECDC	600.00	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	625.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Print Centre	184.78	Paid by BACS
Harper Collins Publishers	141.41	Paid by BACS
Mrs N Booth	329.70	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Burrows Newsagents	75.00	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	75.51	Paid by BACS
Greene King Brewing & Retailing Ltd	1666.32	Paid by direct debit
Cellair Ltd	55.20	Paid by direct debit

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 9th June 2025

Salaries and wages	£45,222.73 (June)	£44,171.13 (July)
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£14,293.79	£16,042.89
Pension fund payments	£13,590.62	£14,427.92

Councillors noted and approved the bank reconciliation for the period ending 31st May 2025.

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

Cllrs Christine Whelan and Alison Whelan

MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2025

COUNTY COUNCIL

Local Government Reorganisation

Three options are currently under consideration for reorganising local government in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The County Council is supporting further work on **Option A**, which keeps East Cambridgeshire linked with Cambridge. This connection is vital, given that many residents work, study, access healthcare, and travel into the city.

East Cambs District Council leadership is instead backing **Option B**, which would sever these links. A public **survey closed 20 July**, and a parish forum was held on 9 July. [Local Council Reorganisation Info](https://can-campaigns.co.uk/local-councils-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-are-changing/) <https://can-campaigns.co.uk/local-councils-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-are-changing/>

FULL COUNCIL – 15 JULY 2025

Public Questions

Question on the impact of Gambling – will Council sign letter to Lisa Nandy on changes to the Gambling Act 2005. Reply that CCC is pleased to support the letter, and that Cambs Health Services are acting to tackle Gambling.

Question on how the Council plans to address systemic discrimination towards Care Experienced people? Reply replied that CCC is very committed to tackling the challenges faced by care experienced people and that CCC is aspirational for children in care; all policies being revised and renewed to be inclusive to care leavers; all Cllrs have access to training on their role as corporate parents.

Question about CCC 'writing off £60m' of loans to This Land and 'unquantified 'impairment' of some or all of the £5.8M equity holding', claim that this appears to constitute an illegal subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Reply replied that CCC will receive back more money than was lent to TLL. The issues date

back to the structure of the original loans under a previous administration. Financing is being restructured and that advice on subsidy control was taken.

Question looking 'for an assurance that the proposed busway fencing will not close off existing well used footpaths that allow residents to cross the busway to access nature and that the fencing will not be a barrier to wildlife.' Reply that safety is priority and crossing points will be maintained where possible and that fencing will be made to allow wildlife to cross.

Councillor Allowances

The recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel were accepted.

This is always a difficult area as Councillors are required to vote for their own allowances every 4 years.

The most independent way this can be done is by appointing a fully independent remuneration panel and accepting their recommendations without amendment.

Health Scrutiny Committee

A new health Scrutiny Committee was established to be chaired by Cllr Richard Howitt. Cllr Howitt presented the Health Scrutiny Report for 2024/25.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Motion

Cllr Alison Whelan proposed a motion reaffirming the County Council's commitment to supporting all residents, with particular attention to the challenges facing trans people in Cambridgeshire.

Cllr Christine Whelan also spoke in support, highlighting the importance of inclusivity and the need to protect vulnerable communities from hate and misinformation.

The motion passed with **40 in favour, 15 against, and 0 abstentions**.

Motions passed also included:

- **Primary Care Access:** Highlighted urgent GP access issues in new developments like Cambourne and Northstowe. Passed 51–4.
- **Flood Defences:** Urged Government to close a 50% funding gap to avoid future flooding and rewetting of the Fens. Passed 49–3.

- **Fly Tipping:** Motion passed calling for better coordination with National Highways. Passed 54–0.
 - **Welfare Cuts:** Motion highlighting concerns over proposed benefits cuts. Passed 41–13.
-

ADULTS & HEALTH

New Public Health Plan

The County Council has approved a new Public Health Strategy, focusing on:

- Mental health
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Employment support

Several contracts, including adult social care transport and home adaptations, have been retendered.

Household Support Fund

The **Household Support Fund** is now open. Households facing hardship can apply for a £110 voucher (April 2025–March 2026).

Apply: [Household Support Fund Info](#)

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

New Ways of Building Schools

Academy trusts and developers will now lead on some school building and expansion projects. A new residential service in Harston for children with complex needs has also been approved.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL MOBILITY

Adult Learning Praised

Cambridgeshire Skills was rated **Good** overall and **Outstanding** for learner attitudes in a recent Ofsted inspection. Courses are delivered online and in over 80 venues.

Libraries

The eLibrary continues to grow:

- eMagazines usage up 287%
- eNewspapers up 47%
- Residents can also access Ancestry.com free with a library card.

Summer Reading Challenge

This is an annual programme that encourages children to keep reading during the summer holidays, ensuring they are ready for a great start to the new term in the autumn.

The annual Summer Reading Challenge is open to pre-school and primary school aged children and is for all reading abilities. It is free to take part:

- Children sign up at their local library or mobile library where they'll be given a collector's folder and bookmark
- Read six library books of their choice during the holidays
- Collect a sticker for each book read

When they finish, they will receive a certificate and medal. Under-3s will receive a special sticker medal.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library/children-and-young-people-in-libraries/summer-reading-challenge>

Prevent Duty

The council received an "Exceeding" rating on its Home Office Prevent assurance visit, reflecting strong performance in counter-terrorism work.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Fens Reservoir

The Government will take control of the proposed **Fens Reservoir** near Chatteris. This is intended to “accelerate” progress but lacks specific delivery timelines.

Climate Leadership

Cambridgeshire scored **55%** in Climate Emergency UK’s action scorecards, the **second highest** among English counties.

Local Nature Recovery

A new strategy launches 18 July. Consultation is open via:

Natural Cambridgeshire <https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/>

Food Waste Collection Changes

From 2026, food waste will be collected weekly, separately from garden waste. Volunteers are being recruited to support resident engagement.

Volunteer Info <https://www.recap.co.uk/campaigns/food-waste-volunteers-needed-introducing-simpler-recycling>

Disposable Vapes

Sales of **disposable vapes are now banned** (from 1 June). The law aims to reduce youth vaping and environmental waste.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Ely A10 Active Travel Bridge

Progress continues on the proposed **walking and cycling bridge at the A10/BP roundabout** in Ely. Consultation showed strong public support. An Outline Business Case will be submitted soon. Estimated cost: £6.8M–£14M.

Guided Busway

Following Health & Safety Executive action, the busway will be **fully fenced** and include wildlife-friendly crossings and maintained public access where feasible.

A14 National Highways Criticism

The council criticised National Highways' performance post-A14 upgrade. Outstanding issues remain, and engagement continues.

OTHER UPDATES

Procurement Breaches

The County Council reported on **historic procurement rule breaches**. None involved fraud, but systemic change is now underway under Liberal Democrat leadership.

Public Rights of Way

Parish councils are helping to prioritise footpaths based on community use. A survey is open until **31 July**.

COMBINED AUTHORITY

Governance & Appointments

Mayor Paul Bristow formally accepted office and appointed Cllr Anna Bailey as Statutory Deputy Mayor.

The Independent Remuneration Panel recommended new allowances:

- Mayor's salary set at £93,000, with indexation.
- Committee member allowances adjusted, including payments for substitute members and rapporteurs.

The Authority responded to planned bus service withdrawals, especially routes 9 and 33, and delegated procurement authority to maintain viable services.

The Tiger Routes bus network and Tiger on Demand services continued expanding, with strong uptake among young people and rural communities.

The Tiger Pass—which offers £1 bus fares for under-25s across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – may come to an end in its current format despite the popularity. A final decision is expected at the Combined Authority Board meeting in late July, where members will vote on whether to:

- End the fare cap early.
- Extend the Tiger Pass.
- Introduce eligibility restrictions.

The Youth Guarantee Trailblazer launched with £5m in funding, aiming to support young people aged 16–26 who are NEET. A Youth Forum and Programme Board were established to guide delivery.

Christine Whelan

Cllr Alison Whelan

County Councillors for Ely South and Ely North

District Councillors' report to City of Ely Council July 2025 by Cllr Christine Whelan

A very busy month for committees

Licensing Committee 18 June

The draft revised version of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy (which must be reviewed every five years) was approved, and is now going out to consultation. The major change was the Promotion of Equality, in a paragraph introduced to set out the Council's commitment to equality matters.

Operational Services Committee 23 June

- i. Proposed changes to planning committees by central government were considered to be not helpful, and the Council has formed a small group that will respond to the consultation and potential changes.
- ii. It was resolved to note the content of the report, and the progress made towards the implementation of the new waste and recycling collection service.
- iii. It was noted that the Committee had a revenue overspend of £195,163, when compared to its approved budget of £7,134,292, and that the Committee had a capital programme spend of £1,869,054, an underspend of £2,858,721 when compared to its revised budget. This was mostly due to deferment of essential capital spending to another year.
- iv. The Citizens Advice West Suffolk (CAWS) report was noted, and it showed how many residents of the Bottisham Ward were using this service.

Finance and Assets Committee 26 June

- i. The Climate and Nature Monitoring Report mentioned that progress was being made in some of the items in the Action Plan, but that many had not been started. The Council was encouraging households to improve energy efficiency through ECO 4 and a more flexible arrangement. Mention was made of working with local residents to create an accessible one-acre woodland in Bottisham.
- ii. This Committee has a yearend underspend of £1,604,245 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £7,016,768; the Council has a yearend underspend of £2,621,278 when compared to its approved budget of £18,840,342.
- iii. A sum of £102,245 has been set aside towards Inclusive Play and Open Spaces improvements and creation following the Inclusive Play Audit.

Those PCs that have not had such an Audit are encouraged to apply to ECDC as soon as possible.

- iv. The Council was given grants from UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Business Grant Funds to help small businesses expand and train new staff. It was agreed that the Business Growth Fund will open on the 7 July 2025 and close no later than 23:59 on 5 September 2025, with all projects to be completed by 31 March 2026, and that the Rural England Prosperity Business grant fund will open early autumn 2025 and be completed by 31st March 2026. Further details from the Economic Development Manager at ECDC. Parish Councils will be notified as they may be aware of small businesses in their patch that would qualify for these grants.
- v. The Combined Authority awarded ECDC a grant of £400k to fund feasibility schemes for three cycle schemes: Ely to Stuntney, Ely to Soham and Burwell to Fordham.
- vi. A Housing Strategy report was considered, and it was deemed to be lacking in strategy, but it had lots of good information and data. The look of the report was good but the opinion of some was that it was a good report not a strategy.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Public and Stakeholder survey has now been closed (20th July). The preferred option of the district administration has been put forward to the leaders of the councils' group meeting. This suggestion was not discussed at a full council meeting prior to this meeting.

Next Council Meetings

The full council that had been planned for July has now been cancelled and will now take place at 6pm on September 18th

Finance and Assets 25th September

Operational Services 29th September

Planning meeting are held on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

All of the meetings are live streamed and can be viewed on you tube via the Council's website link.