

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

Parish Council County Report April 2025

South Cambs Council

Five-year land supply

In December the government published new planning policies which increased housing targets with no notice period to allow councils to adjust. This resulted in the five-year land supply for the Greater Cambridge area temporarily dipping from 6.5 years to 4.6 years. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning team have published a new report which calculates the current five year land supply, which is now 5.5 years. This provides assurance that the provisions of the Local Plan are fully enforceable.

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/current-plans-and-guidance/monitoring-delivery-in-greater-cambridge/>

Warm Homes funding

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been awarded several million pounds in funding from the Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of the national Warm Homes programme.

We have been allocated £8.2m as part of the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund. This fund supports social housing providers to insulate social homes, improve energy efficiency and upgrade heating systems. It will help retrofit social homes and tackle fuel poverty for residents, deliver carbon savings to progress toward net zero.

Additionally, a consortium of local councils has been awarded £8.5m under the Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme. This is a fund to improve energy performance and provide low carbon heating in private homes. Congratulations to the housing teams for all their hard work in securing these funding awards. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/millions-secured-for-warmer-homes-in-south-cambridgeshire>

New council website

The website for South Cambridgeshire District Council went through a major upgrade on 25 March. New features include streamlined navigation, improved accessibility and localisation; residents can put their postcode in and find information purely relevant to their area, such as their local councillors, the bin schedule, planning applications and local events. Please submit any feedback on the new site using the Leave feedback button at the top of each page.

New tenant in South Cambs Hall

The council has been actively seeking tenants to make best use of the space available in South Cambs Hall. From 10 April, The ICT Service, a school advisory and support service run by the County Council, will be located on the ground floor as part of the strategy to optimise the use of South Cambs Hall for local community and business support.

Local government reorganisation

There has been a great deal of discussion between local councils in this area about the possibilities for local government reorganisation. A letter was sent to the Local Contact Details: E mail: cllr.mcdonald@scambs.gov.uk or peter.mcdonald@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Telephone 07912 669092

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

Government Minister as requested at the end of March to confirm that the councils in Cambridgeshire have been exploring the possibilities constructively together. This was approved by the council at an extraordinary meeting on 19 March. However, it is much too early at this stage to know what shape the reorganisation will take in Cambridgeshire. There is now a FAQ page on the council's website to explain the government's plans for local government reorganisation and the possible consequences. I will keep parishes updated as the likely outcome for this area gradually becomes clearer.

Net Zero Villages grant

Over £360k has been awarded to climate-friendly causes across the district through the Net Zero Villages scheme, which opened last December. Successful applicants included Shepreth Parish Council, which will receive £62k to improve the energy efficiency of Shepreth Village Hall and Ickleton which received £22k for the Ickleton Lion. The next opportunity to apply for funding for similar projects is the council's Zero Carbon Communities Grant, which opens for application in May.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/over-360000-awarded-to-climate-friendly-causes-through-net-zero-villages-grant>

Cambs County Council **HAF Programme**

Funding for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has been extended by the Department for Education into 2025. The programme offers families the opportunity to access funded places and a meal for their child during the main school holidays of Easter, Summer, and Christmas. With a focus on providing healthy meals alongside engaging activities, this programme is ideal for children to stay healthy and more active this Easter.

Any child receiving benefit-related free school meals is eligible for the programme, which will run between 7 – 17 April. Approximately 20,000 HAF eligibility vouchers were sent to families on 3 March. Each voucher offers a child 16 hours of access, for no charge, to a HAF registered holiday scheme during the Easter school holidays.

The Department for Education (DfE) requires local authorities to coordinate the programme which is delivered by approved providers. The Council is working with schools, holiday scheme providers, district councils and voluntary and community organisations.

As part of the programme, eligible children will be able to access:

- A variety of schemes including sports, playschemes, drama, technology, outdoor adventure and youth schemes.
- Enriching experiences to develop children's skills and confidence.
- At least one nutritious meal a day.
- Daily physical exercise through sports and/or play.

Further information can be found at [Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Contact Details: E mail: cllr.mcdonald@scambs.gov.uk or peter.mcdonald@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Telephone 07912 669092

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

Farm Tenancies

We are offering five initial tenancies of 10 years to allow development of a rural business on one of Cambridgeshire's leasehold farms. Cambridgeshire County Council's Farms Estate is the largest in England and Wales and covers over 13,400 hectares, supporting over 160 tenants with 45 new entrants in the last 10 years.

We are seeking to continue our long track record of helping establish new farming businesses in the county. With five initial tenancies of 10 years currently available from October 2025, successful applicants will have the opportunity to join the Estate's community and exercise their entrepreneurial abilities to develop a rural business on one of the leasehold farms listed below.

Recent new tenants have included businesses that seek to address the climate change challenge, with some exploring regenerative farming, which benefits carbon capture and biodiversity.

The properties come fully equipped with a house and various outbuildings, offering potential for cereal and root crop farming, as well as other diversified uses.

- **Council Farm, Little Wilbraham** comprises more than 21 hectares (nearly 53 acres) of predominantly clay over marl/sandy clay soils.
- **Larkhall & Block Farm, Fordham** comprises over 138 hectares (approximately 342 acres) of predominantly sandy clay loam over sandy soils.
- **Whitehall Farm, Littleport** comprises nearly 76 hectares (approximately 190 acres) of predominantly clay loam with peat over clay.
- **Fen Bridge Farm, Cottenham** comprises more than 92 hectares (over 227 acres) of predominantly free draining slightly acidic loamy soils.
- **Chancel Farm, Wicken** comprises more than 40 hectares (approximately 100 acres) of predominantly clay loam over clay soils.



Larkhall and Block Farm



Council Farm



Fen Bridge Farm



Chancel

Find out more, including contact details for our County Farms team, on our website: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/Rural-Estate

VE Day Road Closures

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

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

Cambridgeshire residents wanting to host a street party to celebrate the 80th anniversaries of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day will not have to pay a fee for the production of their Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) to legally close a road.

Celebrations are being planned across the country to mark the 80th anniversaries and communities in Cambridgeshire are invited to get involved by hosting street parties and community events.

Cambridgeshire County Council is encouraging people to submit their applications ahead of the deadlines, which have been relaxed to ensure more people can get together with their neighbours and celebrate in their communities.

Applications for VE Day celebration road closures must be made by **Thursday 17 April 2025** and applications for VJ Day celebration road closures must be made by **Friday 25 July 2025**.

Before applying for a road closure, applicants should consult with residents in the area to make sure there are no objections, ensure signs are clearly visible for all road users, and make sure the street is cleared of any rubbish before it is reopened.

Communities hosting events and activities connected with VE Day and VJ Day commemorations are also being encouraged to add them to an [interactive map](#), allowing others discover what is taking place in their local area and get involved.

More information on [applying for a road closure to hold a street party](#) along with an application form can be found on the council's website.

Peter McDonald April 5th 2025