

District Report January 2026

Cllr Richard Williams

Local Plan – Consultation Open

The consultation on the draft Local Plan has opened. It close on 30th January 2026. The Plan sets out where new homes, jobs, green spaces, infrastructure and community facilities may be built across Greater Cambridge over the next 20 years. The draft proposes meeting demand for about 50,000 new homes (including roughly 37,000 already planned) and anticipates 73,000 additional jobs. It includes possible expansion of towns like Cambourne, new neighbourhoods, employment sites (including logistics and research), and enhanced transport and nature-space provision. As noted in my November report, there are several areas of the report that are significant for the village – e.g. the proposed new Town on the A11.

The link to the consultation is here: https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/local_plan

Local Government Reorganisation

As expected, S Cambs Council has made a submission to the Government proposing a new Council comprising of South Cambs and Cambridge City, and one for East Cambs, Hunts, Fenland and Peterborough for the local government report. As noted in my November report, other Councils have submitted alternative proposals. As you have probably seen in the news, the Government has proposed postponing elections in 2026 in areas undergoing Council regorganisation, where councils ask for postponement to 2027. I didn't support postponing elections in South Cambs and it has now been confirmed that elections will go ahead.

AvTech at the IWM

In December I attended a meeting with the developers of the AvTech proposal along with other local councillors. We all stressed the importance of traffic management on the A505, and the proposals seem to be developing to take account of this. I know that the developers are planning to meet with the PC in the coming months.

Government Consultation on Changes to National Planning Policy

The Government has launched a public consultation on a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), alongside a wider package of proposed planning reforms.

Residents can view:

- The Written Ministerial Statement issued by the Government
- The Oral Statement delivered to Parliament
- The Government press release
- The full consultation documents

The consultation is open for responses until 10 March:
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>).

Key proposed changes include:

- The Government has decided not to introduce statutory National Development Management Policies (NDMPs) at this time. Instead, national planning policy changes are being made through the revised NPPF, with the option to introduce statutory NDMPs in the future if required.
- The NPPF has been significantly restructured, with a new format and layout compared to previous versions.
- A number of new national planning policies are proposed, including:
 - A permanent presumption in favour of development in suitable locations, particularly in urban areas.
 - A “default approval” approach for housing near railway stations, including:
 - Development around stations within existing settlements
 - Development around well-connected stations outside settlements, including on Green Belt land
 - Proposed minimum densities of 40 dwellings per hectare around all stations, and 50 dwellings per hectare around well-connected stations.
 - Measures to increase density in urban and suburban areas, such as redeveloping low-density sites, corner plots, upward extensions, and infill development, including within residential gardens.
 - Additional support for small and medium-sized housing sites, with a new category of “medium development” (10–49 homes) aimed at reducing costs and regulatory burdens for small and medium-sized builders. This may include exemption from the Building Safety Levy.
 - Proposals to exempt very small developments (up to 0.2 hectares) from Biodiversity Net Gain requirements, alongside simplified rules for small and medium sites that are not exempt. Further consultation is also proposed on potential exemptions for certain brownfield residential sites.
 - £8 million of new funding for local planning authorities to help speed up the processing of major residential planning applications after outline permission has been granted. This funding will be targeted at authorities with high levels of development activity and strong growth potential, with £3 million allocated to London authorities.

The Council will be reviewing the proposals in detail and will submit a formal response to the consultation. Residents are also encouraged to review the consultation documents and submit their own comments directly to the Government before the deadline.

Weekly Food Waste Collections

Weekly collections of food waste will begin in parts of South Cambridgeshire in January – rolling out collections to all households by the end of 2026.

The service will be extended across Greater Cambridge in phases throughout the year. All households will receive a letter with full details a few weeks before the service begins in their area to help ensure they are prepared.

Before their new collections begin, households will receive a new outdoor caddy to put out for collection at the kerbside with their wheelie bins each week, as well as a smaller indoor caddy to collect food waste in the kitchen. Most flats will share an outdoor wheelie bin in their bin store

to empty their indoor caddy into. The weekly food waste collections will take place on residents' usual bin days.

Households in the first phase of the roll-out which will start in January will have received a letter before Christmas letting them know when to expect delivery of their caddies and the date that their weekly collection service will begin.

Whittlesford is in the second wave of the roll out, so collections are likely to cover the whole of the Parish by the Autumn. You can check your waste collection timetable at www.greatercambridgewaste.org by inputting your postcode.