

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 June 2026**

### **Cambs County Council**

#### **Woodland Initiative**

Cambridgeshire County Council is inviting communities, landowners and farmers to come forward if they have land suitable for new woodland, hedgerow creation, and nature recovery, as part of a campaign to rebuild the county's depleted tree cover.

Cambridgeshire is one of the most tree-depleted counties in England, with intensive agriculture and the loss of traditional hedgerows leaving habitats fragmented and wildlife increasingly isolated.

The Woodland Creation project, led by Cambridgeshire County Council and funded by the Forestry Commission, aims to reverse this trend by increasing tree and woodland canopy cover and expanding hedgerows across the county, to open up potential opportunities, such as agroforestry.

The project delivers a wide range of benefits including climate resilience, carbon storage, flood management, improved biodiversity, cleaner air and better public health.

The initiative directly aligns with the council's ambition for a green and sustainable Cambridgeshire, helping to expand and better connect woodland and hedgerow networks across the county and to restore nature.

Woodland creation will ensure new planting strengthens ecological networks and delivers maximum benefit for both wildlife and people. By creating new woodland and hedgerow corridors, the project aims to support thriving nature, manage flooding more effectively, store carbon and create healthier, more resilient landscapes.

This campaign also links closely with Cambridgeshire County Council's 'Nature Recovery – From the Ground Up' project, which supports local communities to develop their own Community Nature Recovery Plans, helping people identify and deliver nature recovery projects that matter most to them while informed by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Council is now inviting expressions of interest from community and parish groups, landowners and farmers with land of 0.5 hectares or more that may be suitable for tree planting, woodland creation, hedgerow improvement or wider nature recovery initiatives. Priority will be given to:

- Lower-grade agricultural land
- Sites next to existing habitats such as woodland, wetlands or meadows
- Land that can help connect ecological networks across Cambridgeshire.

Those interested are encouraged to complete the secure online form by 30 June 2026 for the 2026/27 planting season. Further information about the offers to support the delivery of these woodlands will be available over the next couple of months: [Woodland Creation | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

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## Quality of Life Survey

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched its annual [Quality of Life survey](#), inviting residents to share their views on life in Cambridgeshire and the issues that matter most to them and their communities.

The survey supports the council's vision of a healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire, where everyone can thrive now and in the future.

The survey helps the council and its partners understand residents' experiences and priorities across the county.

By gathering feedback from a large and representative cross-section of communities, the findings provide valuable insight to support business planning, policy development, and decision-making, as well as helping to understand how changes to public services are affecting people's lives.

This insight is used to help shape the council's Business Plan and Budget, tracking progress against the council's Strategic Framework ambitions over time.

The online and telephone survey will capture the views of around 5,500 residents and is being delivered in partnership with Cambridge Ahead and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

The 20-minute survey is being carried out by independent market research company Thinks Insight, which aims to speak to a representative sample of approximately 1,100 residents aged 18 and over in each of Cambridgeshire's five district areas, ensuring a broad and balanced range of perspectives.

Residents will be asked about a range of topics, including life and community, transport, health and wellbeing, children and young people, and perceptions of the council and its services.

Previous survey findings have shown that many residents feel happy, safe and have a strong sense of belonging, with Cambridgeshire widely seen as a good place to raise children.

They have also highlighted areas where residents would like to see improvement, such as road and pavement maintenance, the cost of living, and mental health and loneliness.

Alongside the random sample, all residents are encouraged to take part via the council's website at: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey)

The survey will remain open into the summer and close on 5 August 2026, after which responses will be analysed and shared with councillors and the public in the autumn.

The results will help inform council discussions and priorities for the years ahead.

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Residents who are contacted directly will be approached by the council's commissioned research service, Field Locker, who will identify themselves as working on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council and provide contact details for verification.

Participants will not be asked for identifying personal details or any financial information.

Peter McDonald June 1st 2026