

District and County Councillor's Report – January 2026

Grange Farm

At the end of 2025, the District Council released their draft Local Plan – which is the development plan for the next 20 years and indicates the parcels of land in South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City that they feel can accommodate housing and commercial development to feed the population and economic growth during this time.

The major development in our area is called Grange Farm and has been well publicised in both local media, local authority press releases, public consultation events as well by word of mouth.

The proposal is for a brand-new town, which can accommodate up to 6,000 new houses. This would be a major development in our area, as it would represent a new town about 3 times the size of Linton.

The reason this is proposed here is that the location is deemed to be 'sustainable', as it's close to employment sites like Granta Park and Babraham Research Park and is also located on major roads – the A1307 and the A11.

The public consultation on this draft document went live on December 1st and will run until January 30th. Please do encourage anyone that has a view on the Grange Farm site, or any of the others proposed, to engage with this. This is the first, and most important, opportunity that people will have to comment on the proposals.

There are also a raft of in-person sessions where you can speak with a planning officer about anything specific. There is a list of all of the events, as well as the consultation form, on the Local Plan webpage - <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan> - the main local event that we have in our area has been arranged by the Parish Council and is on January 14th at 7pm in the Abington Institute, where planning officers will be presenting and taking questions on the Grange Farm site specifically.

Local Government Reorganisation

Following the submission to central government, by local authorities in Cambridgeshire, of their preferred geographic splits of what new unitary authorities would look like, we now wait until the government have digested this information. We will likely be asked for further thoughts, via a consultation, once government have whittled the possibilities down to, what they think, are the most efficient/realistic. More to follow in the coming months.

Kingsway Solar

Thank you to all those who engaged with the public consultation last year, it was very important to get people's comments into Kingsway, as these will all be sent to the planning inspector, who will be making the decision on this proposal.

A slight update on national planning policy, which is relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Proposals (NSIP's), which the Kingsway Solar Farm is one of. Recently, the government have changed

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

planning law to make the NSIP process quicker. Whether this is a good thing, or not, is yet to be seen but could be interpreted as speeding up delivery at the expense of scrutiny.

If you want to read the full changes, you can do so here -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-planning-and-infrastructure-bill/guide-to-the-planning-and-infrastructure-bill> - but the main changes are:

1. Accelerating infrastructure in particular Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)
2. Limiting the number of attempts at legal challenge against government decisions on major infrastructure projects
3. Development corporations: Will be focused on New Towns and large scale development, the key elements to note is that the Act gives them transport powers.
4. Strategic Planning (SDS): Spatial Development Strategies become a statutory requirement for Combined Authorities/ Mayoral Strategic Authorities
5. A more strategic approach to nature recovery
6. Changes to CPO process and land compensation rules to enable more effective land assembly through public sector-led schemes

Weekly Food Waste Collection

The changes to how our food waste will be collected will be implemented this year. Every household will get a separate food caddy for all of their food waste, this will still be collected by the District Council in the same way that our bins currently are.

The reason for this change is in response to DEFRA changing the law around how food can be disposed of, so locally we need to collect it separately to the waste in other bins, specifically the green bin.

Full detail at - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/greater-cambridge-councils-set-out-arrangements-for-new-weekly-food-waste-collections>

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all of you. We hope you all had a restful Christmas period and are looking forward to working with you in 2026.

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