

District Councillors' Report to Parish Councils April 2025

Extraordinary Council meeting 20 March 2025

This Council meeting was to confirm formally an acknowledgement to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution that we had received his letter on the subject of Local Government recognition, and that we were working with the other Councils in Cambridgeshire to formulate a consistent plan for the county.

The Witchford Neighbourhood Plan that was modified to include a Climate Change Single-Issue Review was formally adopted by the Council. It is interesting to note that NPs are organic and can be updated to keep abreast of local concerns and issues.

Operational Services committee 24 March 2025

Not an exciting meeting, as the agenda contained a number of housekeeping reports: the ECSS business plan for next year, the Community Safety Partnership six-monthly report, End of Year Reports on Service Delivery and the Plans for next year, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, Housing Adaptations and Repairs Policy, Quarter 3 2024/25 Budget Monitoring Report (which predicts an overspend of £335,000 on operating costs and an underspend of £1.7m on capital mainly because money set aside for buying black bins (£1m) and for the Mepal Crematorium (£1m) has been deferred until the following year), Quarter 3 2024/25 Performance Report for the Waste and Street Cleansing Services which shows that bin collection is still not within target, Citizens Advice West Suffolk SLA Performance Update (which surprisingly showed that residents as far afield as Littleport and Ely were coming to the Newmarket CAB, the one at Ely having been scrapped sometime ago, as well as residents from Bottisham Ward)

Finance & Assets committee 27 March 2025

Two items of housekeeping were discussed: the ECTC Business Plan for the next year, and End of Year Reports on Service Delivery and the Plans for next year.

It was also agreed that three ECDC assets in Ely, Oliver Cromwell House, the Maltings and Maltings Cottage should be sold to City of Ely Council for £1 each, or if the City of Ely Council did not want to buy them, to offer them on a 25-year lease. Substantial renovations and repairs are necessary to all three, and a short-term lease as hitherto done would not be in the interests of these heritage buildings. Having been assured by the Monitoring Officer that this would be legal, and with constraints on the use to which they could put and on the resale of these properties, this was unanimously resolved.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp