District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC

May 2026

Back to Business

Firstly, I would like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to everybody for your support. Your kindness, encouragement, and trust truly means so much to me, and I am incredibly grateful to have been re-elected to continue representing the villages across The Mordens.

Following the district council elections, the council this month is now getting back into the swing of things. We've had inductions and training, and last week the council held its AGM. At the AGM the Leader of Council was appointed, which continues to be Cllr Bridget Smith, along with the appointments of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Cabinet and Committee seats. With all but two councillors elected under the Liberal Democrats, it's important that the administration is still scrutinised and held to account where necessary, so I am pleased that we will have one seat on every Committee at the council.

The Committees I now sit on are:
Audit and Corporate Governance
Employment and Staffing
Licensing
Planning
Joint Planning Advisory Board
Housing Engagement Board
Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

Thank you to everyone that took part in the last consultation on the Local Plan over the winter. Feedback is currently being looked at and will be considered in the preparation of the proposed submission version of the Local Plan. This month, I met with the Director of Planning, and he advised me that the next consultation will be during this summer ahead of submission to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination in December 2026. I have requested that if it is during the summer, whether it would be possible to have a longer consultation period, as we all know that lots of people are very busy during the summer months with school holidays and everyday life. I will keep you updated when these details emerge and would encourage people to take part in the consultation.

East West Rail

East West Rail's 2026 Consultation is live until Tuesday 9th June. I would encourage you to share your views. This consultation presents the latest designs and information on East West Rail, offering communities along the route an opportunity to have their say. Here is the link to the East West Rail 2026 Consultation page where you can find more information and take part in the consultation: https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation/consultation2026

Reporting local issues

All year round, I continue to campaign to get our roads fixed. The condition of our rural roads remains a priority to me. While highways are the responsibility of the county council, I do what I can to support residents, and am regularly reporting them, as well as liaising with Highways directly.

As well as potholes, I often report other repair needs such as damaged road signs, fly-tipping, faded road markings and flooding issues. It's really important that roads and streets remain safe for all our users.

You can report faults here:

- **Potholes and road defects** – these are handled by the County Council. You can report issues online via their highways reporting system. The more reports they receive, the more likely repairs are to be prioritised.
  Report potholes here: Report a highways fault | Cambridgeshire County Council

- **Fly-tipping and missed bins** – these can be reported to the District Council, which is responsible for waste services.
  Report a fly-tip here: Report a fly-tip (South Cambs) - Greater Cambridge Shared Waste
  Report a missed bin collection here: Report a missed bin collection - Greater Cambridge Shared Waste

- **Damaged or fallen road signs** – also reported through the County Council, as part of highways maintenance. Reporting a damaged road sign etc: Report a highways fault | Cambridgeshire County Council
  However, if it is a street name plate/sign that is the responsibility of the District Council.
  Reporting a street name issues: Damaged or Missing Street Name Plates - 3CSharedServices.org

- **Blocked drains**

  There's lots of information about who is responsible for what when it comes to these type of issues on the flooding page of the SCDC website. When it comes to blocked drains, if this is a sewer, this is likely the responsibility of Anglian Water. You can report an issue to them online or call them on 0345 791 9155. If this is a blocked drain on the road or pavement, this is likely the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council. You can report that issue here: Report a highways fault | Cambridgeshire County Council

Local Government Re-Organisation (LGR)

It is expected that the Government will announce its decision on the future structure of local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough this July.

Local authorities each submitted their preferred option and business case to government. As a reminder these were each option:

Option A – two unitary proposal

Unitary 1	Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire and Fenland District Councils along with County Council functions
Unitary 2	Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils along with County Council functions

Option B – two unitary proposal

Unitary 1	Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Huntingdonshire District Councils along with County Council functions
Unitary 2	Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District along with County Council functions

Option C – two unitary proposal

Unitary 1	Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland District Councils along with County Council functions
Unitary 2	Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils along with County Council

Option D – Three Unitary proposal

Unitary 1	Peterborough City Council, parts of Huntingdonshire District Councils along with County Council functions
Unitary 2	Parts of Huntingdonshire District Council, Fenland, and East Cambridgeshire along with County Council functions
Unitary 3	Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District along with County Council functions

Option E – Three Unitary proposal

Unitary 1	Peterborough City, Fenland, East Cambridgeshire District Councils with County Council functions
Unitary 2	Huntingdonshire District Council with County Council functions
Unitary 3	Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District along with County Council functions

All options were submitted other than Option C, which in my view, provides the best balance of financial strength, rural representation and service sustainability for South Cambridgeshire residents and it keeps South Cambs linked in communities and economies that share its character. Whichever the outcome, it will have significant and long-lasting implications for how our communities are represented and governed. It must not come at the expense of effective representation and accountability.

Zaheers, Odsey

I was saddened by the tragic event at Zaheers (The Jester). This is a heartbreaking incident and I will continue to press the council on the issues surrounding this matter, including how the living arrangements came about. Many local residents and I have raised our concerns of the issues surrounding the venue for a considerable amount of time, and following the tragic event, I have met with the police and council officers. I have also been in touch with North Herts district council. While the police have now left the scene, their investigation is ongoing. If anyone has information, then they should pass it on to the police with reference 35/30828/26.

Grants for community groups and parish councils

There are a number of funding opportunities available for local groups, organisations and parish councils. These grants can support a wide range of community projects - from improving local facilities to running events or environmental initiatives.
I would strongly encourage any local group with an idea or project to explore what funding may be available. More information can be found on the council's website: https://www.scambs.gov.uk/grants-and-funding

If you're unsure whether your project might qualify, I'm always happy to point you in the right direction.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

Zero Carbon Communities grant opened for applications this week - a great opportunity for parish and town councils and local groups to bring forward projects that benefit both the environment and their communities.

- Grants from £2,000 to £19,500, with a total fund of £152,000 available.

- Funding supports projects that reduce carbon emissions e.g. from a community building or foster greater community engagement on climate issues and nature, and encourage sustainable behaviour change.

Previous projects have included:

- Improving community buildings (e.g. insulation, heat pumps, solar panels, LED lighting)
- Supporting low-carbon travel (e.g. electric vehicles, cycling infrastructure)
- Community-led initiatives to reduce waste, support nature, or encourage sustainable lifestyles

For full details: Zero Carbon Communities Grant - South Cambs District Council. Application closing date: 5pm, Friday 24 July 2025.

Thank you for reading my report. If I can be of any assistance, please do get in touch.

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