District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC

June 2026

Reporting local issues

Out on pothole patrol this month, I have reported potholes, broken roads, junctions with faded white lines and footpaths that need fixing.

Improving our roads continues to be a major focus for me. The condition of our rural roads remains a top priority, and while highways are managed by the county council, I work hard to support residents by regularly reporting problems and working directly with Highways to push for action.

This goes beyond potholes - I also report issues such as damaged road signs, fly-tipping, faded road markings, and flooding etc. Safe, well-maintained roads and streets are essential for everyone who uses them.

I would keep encouraging everyone to report potholes and road defects too – the more reports Highways receives, the better chance we may have at getting our roads fixed. You can report faults here: Report a highways fault | Cambridgeshire County Council

More calls for transparency

I attended the Scrutiny and Overview Committee this month, and while Northstowe may not be on our doorstep, I felt it was important to explain why I've included it in my report.

The agenda item on the Northstowe Faith & Community Land (Phase 1) bid appeared to lack important information needed for proper scrutiny before it went to Cabinet this week. The report tells us which bid was successful and by how much, but it does not clearly explain why that decision was reached.

There was very little evidence showing how the assessment panel moved from two detailed bids to the final scoring. I asked for more detail to be made public, because members should not be expected to simply accept conclusions without access to the supporting evidence. Transparency and accountability must remain at the heart of this council's decision-making.

Have your say on proposed changes to local bus services

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is reviewing local bus services and is inviting residents to share their views on proposed changes.

The proposals aim to improve bus links between communities and key destinations such as town centres, hospitals, workplaces, and education sites, while making the best use of available funding. Some services may change, some may remain the same, and new connections could be introduced.

Having looked at the proposed changes, the current 26 would be replaced by a new Cambridge Revised Service E.

The service proposed would:

- Run between Cambridge and Royston, like the current 26.
- Continue beyond Royston to Guilden Morden via Bassingbourn.
- Run about once an hour throughout the day.
- Have a longer operating day, giving more travel options early and late.

I know that not all our villages have this service, but I would encourage people to share their views. You can share your feedback by 28th July by visiting: https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-network-review-engagement

Development Corporation

Naturally, many of us support new homes, investment, and sustainable growth, but I do not support transferring significant powers from democratically elected councils to an unelected Development Corporation.

The Government's announcement this month on the proposed Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge raises serious concerns about accountability, transparency, and local democratic control. Residents deserve to know who will make decisions about development in their communities and how those decisions will be scrutinised.

The Government cannot claim to simplify local government while creating another layer of unelected governance. Growth must happen with communities, not be imposed upon them.

I have written to the Leader of the Council calling on the council to stand up for its residents, which could mean preparing for a Judicial Review. An urban development corporation has no place in our villages, and we must stand up for the communities we were elected to protect.

Local Validation Checklist – consultation now open

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has prepared a new Local Validation Checklist, creating a single checklist for both the South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council areas.

The checklist provides guidance on the supporting documents required when submitting a planning application. Some documents are mandatory for all applications, while others will depend on the type of application and the nature of the proposed development.

To ensure an application can be validated, all required information and supporting documents must be submitted. Applications missing the necessary documentation are unlikely to be validated.

A six-week consultation is now open to gather views on the content of the new Local Validation Checklist. Residents, applicants, and stakeholders are encouraged to share their feedback here: Project: Local Validation Checklist consultation | South Cambridgeshire District Council

The consultation closes at 5pm on Tuesday 28th July 2026.

Update on CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy

CIL – At the GCP Assembly Meeting and Cabinet this month there's been much discussion of introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). I am not opposed to introducing a form of CIL as it will enable our parishes to benefit further from any development and can give parish councils more flexibility in how developer contributions are spent. However, I am firmly against the suggestion the money raised through development in our area be handed over to the GCP to plug their funding gap. I am acutely aware that our strategic transport network here in the south needs funding, and that is where money raised in our area should be spent, not sent off to Cambridge. I shall keep you updated of any further developments on this.

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.

Supporting Farmers

I'd like to end my report with something that is close to my heart, and the heart of many others across our villages, and indeed across the country. We're all aware just how much the farming community is struggling right now, and I see the difficulties this essential community faces every day.

So I'm raising money to benefit The Farming Community Network by doing a charity walk across my district ward. I'll be walking approximately 10 miles from Hatley St George to Odsey on Tuesday 30th June.

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times. They provide free and confidential support to anyone who seeks help, regardless of whether the issue is personal or business-related.

Please do share the details of the charity walk, and if anyone would like to donate, here is the link: https://gofund.me/4e9241f5a. And most importantly of all, if you can share and create awareness of this charity, please do.

Wish me luck!

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

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