

## **Melbourn Parish Council – District and County Councillors Report**

*Due to purdah, both councils have been quiet, so just a few things to report this month.*

**Oil Club rebate to Home-Start:** Our local club, which exists to facilitate lowest available prices on household heating oil, gets an annual rebate from the supplier which is always donated to a local community group. This year's modest rebate of £100 has gone to Home-Start South Cambridgeshire, Royston and Buntingford. The most commonly identified needs by referred families are parent isolation and parental mental health problems. The overall service is recognised in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire County Council's care plan, but central government cuts to local authorities mean that the councils are no longer able to provide financial support.

**County Council virtual meetings:** The County Council's HQ in Cambridge, Shire Hall, has now been emptied ahead of redevelopment, and its new building in Alconbury Weald is not yet ready. It is considering continuing with virtual meetings for the time being, and allowing the CEO to make formal decisions under delegated powers.

**County Council officer resignations:** The County Council has several key officer resignations at the end of this month, including the chief finance officer, the director of public health and the director of highways maintenance.

**Train services** – The new timetable commencing 17 May will see a return to half-hourly trains on weekdays, which is great news. Meldreth booking office is having some repair work done and is in temporary accommodation in the car park while this is carried out.

**Thakeham** – The South West Cambridge Action Group continues to benefit from information provided by local residents, either offering their professional expertise in specialist fields or closely monitoring the situation. There has been no formal submission of a proposal to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Call for Sites.