



🏠 **Melbourn Parish Council**
Melbourn Community Hub
30 High Street
Melbourn
SG8 6DZ

👤 Abi Williams, Clerk
👤 Alex Coxall, Deputy Clerk
✉ parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk
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The Annual Parish Meeting of this Parish was held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Atrium of the Hub, 30 High Street, Melbourn, SG8 6DZ

Present: Cllrs Alexander, Barnes, Clark (Chair), Coulman, Kilmurray, Kyprianou

Absent:

In attendance: Abi Williams (Clerk), Shelley Coulman (RFO), Alex Coxall (Deputy Clerk), Stephanie Trayhurn (Timebank and Community Coordinator), County Cllr Adam Bostanci, ten members of public (MOP), nine representatives of community groups / charity / grant receivers

Minutes

Meeting started 19:31

1. Parish Council welcome to Melbourn Residents – introducing attending Councillors.
Cllr Clark welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. To receive apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from District Cllrs Hart and Hales, Cllrs Campbell, Kanagarathnam and Redelinghuys
3. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2025.
It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2025 as an accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Alexander. All in favour.
4. To receive the Annual Report
To include reports from Committees and Working Parties of the Parish Council along with reports from Parish Council representatives from Village Charities and other organisations as well as reports from Community Grant awardees.
The Annual Report was received. *A copy of the Annual report can be found in the in the supporting documents for this meeting.*
Representatives from Francis John Clear Almshouses, Cam Valley Community Rail Partnership and the Community Allotment commented and reported on behalf of their organisations.
5. To receive reports from District Councillors Hart and Hales and Cambridgeshire County Councillor Bostanci.
County Councillor Bostanci highlighted his activities over the last year;
'Responding to government demands' including local government reorganisation and the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation.
'Driving the direction of the Council' including the impact of AI and development of renewable energy projects.
'Serving residents' including potholes!, schools and buses.
County Councillor Bostanci delivered a message on behalf of District Councillors.
A copy of the District and County reports can be found in the Annual Report in the supporting documents for this meeting.
6. Open forum – ask questions on matters that affect you and your local community.
MOP: Questioned if the bins were changing – it was confirmed that a food waste caddy system is being introduced – residents should keep an eye out for the deliver of their kitchen and outdoor caddy soon.
MOP: Offered thanks to be passed to the waste operatives for the way they have accommodated hard to access bin collections.
MOP: Questioned the financial implications of the Greenways project when money would be better spent on fixing the potholes and road surfaces. County Cllr Bostanci confirmed that the Greenways project was funded by central government and did not take local funds away from highways improvements.
MOP: Concern raised over the encroaching of vegetation onto the already narrow paths at

Signed..... Date.....

the Royston Road end of the village. ACTION: Office to update Cllr Bostanci on previous efforts to control this.

MOP: Concern raised over loss of speed awareness devices (MVAS) – it was confirmed that both MVAS units are still in operation in different locations in the village.

MOP: Suggestion of road inspections by Cllrs – it was confirmed that this already happens twice a year and forms the reports that are provided to County Council for capital works. Request slips are delivered to properties where work to vegetation is required.

7. Melbourn Parish Council Community Awards 2026.

Community Awards winner were announced as Thomas Pope (The Future is Bright), Jeanette White, Terry Muncey and John Woolley (All-round good eggs) and Peter Simmonett (Community Superstar).

Thomas Pope, Jeanette White, Terry Muncey and John Woolley were in attendance and received the award from Cllr Clark.

8. Celebration of Volunteers.

Thanks were passed to the numerous volunteers that support the community.

9. Close formal meeting – refreshments and informal networking.

The meeting was closed and attendees enjoyed cake, wine and soft drinks.

Meeting closed 20:14

Attendees left 21:15



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The Annual Parish Meeting of this Parish was held on Monday 12 May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Atrium of the Hub, 30 High Street, Melbourn, SG8 6DZ

Present: Cllrs Alexander, Barnes, Campbell, Clark (Chair), Coulman, Davey, Hart

Absent: Cllr Kanagarathnam

In attendance: Abi Williams (Clerk), Exiting County Cllr van de Ven, County Cllr Adam Bostanci, 4 members of public (MOP), 3 representatives of community groups / charity / grant receivers

MINUTES

Meeting started 19:31

1. Parish Council welcome to Melbourn Residents – introducing attending Councillors.
Cllr Clark welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. To receive apologies for absence.
Apologies were noted from Cllrs Cowley, Kilmurray, Kyprianau, Travis and Wilson.
3. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2024.
It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2024 as an accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Campbell. All in favour.
4. To receive a report from The Chair of Melbourn Parish Council.
Cllr Clark provided a verbal report. *A copy of the Chairs report can be found in the Annual Report in the supporting documents.*
5. To receive the Annual Report
To include reports from Committees and Working Parties of the Parish Council along with reports from Parish Council representatives from Village Charities and other organisations as well as reports from Community Grant awardees.
The Annual Report was received.
Representatives from Triggs Charity, Francis John Clear Almshouses, Homestart and Community Rail Partnership commented and reported on behalf of their organisations.
6. To receive reports from District Councillors Hart and Hales and Cambridgeshire County Councillor Van de Ven.
District Councillor Hart highlighted issues around the Local Government reorganisation and mentioned grants available from South Cambridgeshire District Council.
Exiting County Cllr van de Ven and County Cllr Bostanci attended.
A copy of the District and County reports can be found in the Annual Report in the supporting documents.
7. Open forum – ask questions on matters that affect you and your local community.
Cllr Davey asked about vehicles using the new station path – Cllr van de Ven confirmed vehicles have been witnessed using the path. It has been agreed with Greater Cambridge Partnership that bollards can be placed at the entrance to control access. ACTION: Meldreth and Melbourn to work together on the project.
MOP commented that dog fouling issues should be mentioned in the Melbourn Magazine. ACTION: Office to provide article.
MOP requested that Parish Council chair should wear the insignia to public events. ACTION: Office to locate insignia.
Cllr Davey wanted to express thanks to the Wardens for their hard work and good humour in all that they do.

Signed..... Date.....

8. Melbourn Parish Council Community Awards 2025.
Community Awards winner were announced as Charlie Borrowdale (The Future is Bright), Julian Ireland (All-round good egg) and Jenny & Stuart Thame (Community Superstars). Charlie Borrowdale was in attendance and received the award from Cllr Clark.
9. Close formal meeting – refreshments and informal networking.
The meeting was closed and attendees enjoyed cake, wine and soft drinks.

*Meeting closed 20:10
Attendees left 20:50*

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL
(District of South Cambridgeshire)

**The Annual Parish Meeting of this Parish was held on Monday 13 May 2024 at
7.30pm in the Austen Room of the Hub, 30 High Street, Melbourn, SG8 6DZ**

Present: Cllrs Clark (Chair), Cowley (Vice Chair), Alexander, Davey, Hart, Kanagarathnam, Kilmurray, Travis, Wilson

Absent:

In attendance: Alex Coxall (Parish Clerk), Abi Williams (Clerk), County Cllr van de Ven

MINUTES

Meeting started 19:32

1. To receive any apologies for absence
Apologies were noted from District Councillor Hales, Cllr Barnes and Cllr Campbell.
2. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2023
It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2023 as an accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr Hart. Seconded by Cllr Alexander.
For: Cllrs Clark, Cowley, Alexander, Davey, Hart, Kilmurray, Travis, Wilson
Abstain: Cllr Kanagarathnam
3. Report on aspects of the meeting held on 15 May 2023
Thanks were noted for the concerned residents for their work at representing opinion about the Bruntwood Science Park planning application over the last year.

The chair re-arranged the order of the meeting.

4. (8.) To receive a report from Cambridgeshire County Councillor van de Ven
County Cllr van de Ven gave a verbal report. The report was noted with thanks.
County Cllr van de Ven left the meeting 19:37
5. To receive a report from The Chair of Melbourn Parish Council
The report was noted.
5. To receive reports from the Committees and Working Parties of the Parish Council:
It was noted that all reports could be found in the Annual Report as published on the Melbourn Parish Council website, or by requesting a copy for the Parish Office.
 - a) Planning Committee
The report was noted with thanks.
 - b) Finance & Good Governance Committee
The report was noted with thanks.
 - c) Maintenance Committee
The report was noted with thanks.
 - d) HR Panel
The report was noted with thanks. Thanks was recorded to all staff and service providers for their efforts over the last year.
 - e) Futures Working Party
The report was noted with thanks.
 - f) Skate Park Working Party
The report was noted with thanks.
 - g) MAYD Joint Committee
The report was noted with thanks.
 - h) Melbourn Timebank
The report was noted with thanks.
 - i) Website Working Party (dormant)
The report was noted with thanks. It was noted that the web site project team may be re-convened in the coming year.
 - j) Melbourn Play Parks Working Party (dormant)
The report was noted with thanks.

Signed..... Date.....

6. To receive reports from the Parish Council representatives on Village Charities and Other Organisations:
 - a) Triggs Charity (Gillian Morland)
It was note that Phil Stewart prepared the report and it was noted with thanks.
 - b) Martins Charity (Parish Clerk)
The report was noted with thanks.
 - c) John Clear Almshouses (Mavis Howard)
The report was noted with thanks.
 - d) Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme (Colin Conner)
The report was noted with thanks.
 - e) Melbourn Community Hub (John Travis)
The report was noted with thanks.
 - f) Melbourn & Meldreth Lunch Club (Jeannie Sears)
The report was noted with thanks.
 - g) Grants awarded in 2023/24 and how the money has been spent.
The report was noted with thanks.

7. To receive reports from District Councillors
District Cllr Hart gave a verbal report. The report was noted with thanks.

8. To receive a report from Cambridgeshire County Councillor Van de Ven
Item moved to 4.

9. To consider any matters brought before the Annual Parish Meeting
Cllr Cowley asked about the South Cambs District Council position on the closure of Melbourn Sports Centre. District Cllr Hart commented that talks were underway with interested parties and SCDC were offering support for the situation. The Parish Office has communicated with Cam Academy Trust twice and is currently awaiting a response. Parish Council facilities have been made available to local sports teams to try and support them during this time.

10. Public Forum
No members of the public were present.

11. Community Awards
Community Award winners were announced as Grace Brown (The Future is Bright) and Jay Coulman (Community Superstar) – arrangements have been made to present the awards to both parties at a future date.

Meeting closed 19:54

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Melbourn Parish Council

Melbourn Community Hub, 30 High Street,
Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, SG8 6DZ
www.melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk

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ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL – CLLR CLARK

Another year has gone by. I would like to start this year's report as in previous years by thanking all our staff for their continued professionalism, enthusiasm and diligence. Our new Clerk Abigail Williams our Deputy Clerk Alex Coxall and our Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) Shelley Coulman are all making a difference, their contributions are positive and we are seeing an evolving office team dedicated to supporting our village as I have outlined hereunder. We have also recently recruited a new administrator, Lucy Capper, to support the Clerk and RFO. Her contribution is already being seen as very positive. This year has not been without its challenges. Our village is expanding we have seen the Hopkins Homes development, Victoria Heights and Rosemary place sites now all fully occupied. As the Parish looks to take over some of the maintenance areas on these new sites. We are fortunate to have good contractors working with our Wardens to ensure that we keep our village looking good.

The Parish is in the process of changing its operating and accounting platforms, this is a large task transferring all our records and financial processes onto the new systems. The decision was taken to undertake these changes to ensure we can future proof our processes as the village expands. The office team are currently working very hard to complete the changes necessary to migrate to the new platforms. This is no small task, however, we are confident that these changes will benefit the efficiency of our operations going forward.

I would also like to thank our Timebank and Community Coordinator Stephanie Trayhurn, for all of her continued efforts. Stephanie has continued to grow this scheme. The figures show the recorded hours for March of this year were 786. This is an amazing number of hours where people have been helping each other through the scheme. There are many other events and functions going on. This is a brilliant scheme for local likeminded people to get together.

Meanwhile our Wardens have been busy ensuring the village is looked after, they are out in all weathers ensuring we have a village to be proud of. By the way, we are not responsible for the potholes and pavements!. That said along with our District and County

Councillors we are continually lobbying the authorities to take action in these areas to improve safety on both pavements and roads.

This brings me to the areas where you all can help. Please report issues of potholes and pavement issues on the District and County Councils websites. The more items that get raised the more likelihood we will get some more action from the authorities.

I am also pleased to advise you that our new speed restrictions are having the desired effect we are seeing a marked improvement in drivers slowing down through the village. The new gateway signs that have been introduced on Cambridge Road, are also contributing. People are starting to see this as a village not just a clearway. It is not perfect, but we are seeing a difference. So, thank you to all those drivers who are supporting us in our initiative to make our village a safe place to walk and cycle through.

Unfortunately, there are some issues which we need to address, one is dog fouling. This is unacceptable, people not collecting their dogs waste when walking on the playing fields and green areas, and in some cases the pavements. There is no excuse for this behaviour. It should not be left to the football teams to clear up the mess before games. Please if you are out enjoying a walk with your dog, take the appropriate tools with you to ensure that their waste is not just left behind where others may well be walking. Finally on this note, the play areas are not for dogs. There are signs identifying that dogs are not allowed in these areas. This is not the Parish Council just being authoritarian, it is for justifiable health and safety reasons. So please tie the dogs up OUTSIDE the play areas, thank you all for making the play areas a healthy safe place for our young users.

It just leaves me to say, if you are interested in helping out in the village there are still a couple vacancies on the Parish Council. Please come along and talk to us about what is involved. We look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Clark', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Graham Clark, Chair of Melbourn Parish Council.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Committee

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	N/A
Meeting dates to present	10 June 2024, 8 July 2024, 12 August 2024, 9 September 2024, 7 October 2024, 11 November 2025, 9 December 2024, 20 January 2025, 10 February 2025, 10 March 2025, 7 April 2025, 6 May 2025 (not yet held)
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	<p>Consider all planning applications submitted within the bounds of the Parish and larger applications close to the borders. Support or object to the applications on good planning grounds and make comments on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>In the year 2024/5, the Planning Committee considered 76 planning applications – including tree works and multiple Discharge of Conditions applications for the major developments within the village. We have supported the majority of applications with or without comment, and submitted objections to 10 applications. The planning committee has also considered the land transfers of open spaces in the major developments.</p> <p>There have been 62 Notifications of Decisions received from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) – an increase on the previous year.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue to monitor all applications within the Parish – especially the larger applications and hold existing developments to account where Conditions are not being met.

Prepared by: Cllr Steve Kilmurray, Chair Planning Committee.

Finance & Good Governance Committee

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	Max 7 Councillors. No members of the public.
Meeting dates to present	17 June 2024, 4 November 2024, 16 December 2024, 22 April 2025
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	<p>Reviewing Parish Council spending to ensure value for money.</p> <p>Review income streams (Cemeteries, Little Hands, match fees for football pitches, Pavilion rental and allotments).</p> <p>Reviewing the annual budget and recommending the precept to Full Council.</p> <p>Regular review of policies.</p> <p>Monitoring of the Asset Register and the Asset Management Reserve.</p> <p>Verifying all statutory information is published.</p> <p>Review effectiveness of the internal and external audits.</p> <p>Checking the quarterly VAT refund has been submitted.</p> <p>Support office in transition from EDGE to Rialtas.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue to review all activities of the PC to ensure good governance and prudent finance.

Prepared by: Abigail Williams on behalf of Cllr Muhilan Kanagarathnam, Chair Finance & Good Governance Committee.

Maintenance Committee

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	3 members of the public and MPC warden representatives.
Meeting dates to present	18 April 2024, 16 May 2024, 13 June 2024, 18 July 2024, 15 August 2024, 19 September 2024, 17 October 2024, 21 November 2024, 23 January 2025, 13 February 2025, 13 March 2025 (Inquorate), 17 April 2025
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	<p>The committee continues to address routine and non-routine maintenance issues that are both planned and emergency. This includes maintaining general maintenance contracts and the servicing of LEAP (local equipment areas for play) and LAP (local areas for play) spaces.</p> <p>The operating budget was underspent over the year – Wardens have taken on more maintenance projects with less reliance on funding contractors. Tree works have been less than budgeted with future works planned for the next financial year.</p> <p>The 3-year village maintenance contract was tendered and awarded in June 2024 – parcels of land are quoted and added as they are acquired by the Council.</p> <p>The Strategic Green Belt area of land on Hopkins Homes was transferred to MPC in October 2024. Other areas of green space for transfer have been proposed, the terms of this transfer are being negotiated with the developer.</p> <p>Asset management projects have included improving the Little Hands car park area, updating bins across the village, mending benches and the refurbishment of the shelter on The Moor.</p> <p>Stockbridge Meadows continues with the application to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Future projects include improving the street scene at The Cross with new flower tubs, maintenance of the Little Hands building at The Moor and ongoing bin replacements.

HR Panel

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	No members of public 5 Councillors (Max 5)
Meeting dates to present	<p>The HR Panel meets most months and more frequently when responding to recruitment and appraisal/performance management duties.</p> <p>Both Zoom and in-person meetings continue to be used to facilitate HR Panel contact.</p> <p>All staff appraisals and performance review meetings are in-person. (The HR Panel lead on Clerk and Financial Officer reviews and a representative is present at meetings where the Clerk takes the lead).</p>
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	<p>Following recommendation made at last year's annual appraisals for both Clerks, a decision was made to move to a Clerk and Deputy Clerk model. Both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk started their Certificate in Local Council Administration, CiLCA, training this month with a view to completing in the next 18 months: Melbourn Parish Council will then have 2 qualified Clerks.</p> <p>In line with our Terms of Reference, the HR Panel, in consultation with the Clerk, identified the need for a part-time (10 hours per week) Finance/Office Administrator to primarily support the Finance Officer. This role was advertised locally, and several quality applications were received. We successfully recruited following interviews, and the role officially commenced in October 2024.</p> <p>A member of the HR Panel has monthly meetings with the Clerk to identify any concerns or areas that require support. The HR Panel now has its full complement of Councillors – many thanks to Cllr Barnes for joining us and sitting in on recent appraisal meetings to get an overview of how these are conducted. Thanks also to Cllr Davey for expressing an interest to join the HR Panel at a future date.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	<p>To continue to support the Clerk via regular meetings with a member of the panel.</p> <p>To follow guidance from the Clerk regarding policy updates.</p>

Futures Working Party

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	One member of the public plus 5 Councillors (Max 5)
Meeting dates to present	The Futures working Party (FWP) does not have specific meeting periods or dates. The group does meet regularly at least every quarter, additional meetings will take place if there is a specific objective.
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	The group has had a busy year, we have been working closely with the office to present a new LHI application. This request is about introducing more safety measures around the Primary School. We are awaiting a meeting with the LHI team to explore what options may be available. This will be subject to a successful application. We have introduced new gateway features on the Cambridge road access to the village. The aim is to identify to motorists that they are entering a village.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	We will be looking at the LHI application (if successful). We will also be reviewing the possibility of introducing outdoor gym equipment. This will be for all age groups and will be located on one of our green bet areas. We will also be exploring what facilities are available for setting up a youth club in the future. We will also be working with the office on new initiatives that may well fit within the remit of the FWP.

Prepared by: Cllr Graham Clark, Chair Futures Working Party.

Skate Park Working Party

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	There were 4 Councillors and 5 members of the public involved.
Meeting dates to present	The Working party (SPW) did not have regular meeting slots. The group met when necessary to discuss progress and review data. The group met at least once every quarter. Adhoc meetings would be held if required.
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	This was the second attempt to identify whether there was any village interest in progressing with a skate park initiative. The first attempt had very little response less than a 100 responses from the village. The approach this time was to mail shot all households within the village of Melbourn, delivery was made to 2500 houses. The initiative was also reported on Facebook and local advertising boards. Unfortunately, the uptake once again was very low. There was only 182 replies of which around 35% were against the initiative. It was concluded with such a low interest the likelihood of obtaining grant funding and or external funding was extremely unlikely. It was then decided by the working party that it was not in the village interest to pursue this initiative further.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	<p>It was agreed to look at alternate initiatives. The Parish office would contact the S106 officer to see if there was the possibility of getting the current S106 funds reallocated to an alternative initiative, such as outside gym equipment. This initiative is currently being reviewed by the Futures working party.</p> <p>The Skate Park Working Party will remain dormant.</p>

Prepared by: Cllr Graham Clark, Chair Skate Park Working Party.

MAYD Joint Committee

<p>Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)</p>	<p>No lay public – includes Parish Councillors from Shepreth, Meldreth and Melbourn, District and County Councillors from Cambridgeshire, Youth delivery contractors and Cambridge County Council Youth Services.</p>
<p>Meeting dates to present</p>	<p>22 May 2024, 30 January 2025</p>
<p>Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date</p>	<p>The Joint Committee continues to tackle the provision of youth service options to cater for the local youth community.</p> <p>Foxton Parish Council decided to step back from the Joint Committee at this time.</p> <p>Mix Music DJ Workshop continues to provide a safe space to experiment with music and develop skills in business, marketing, arts and crafts. Providing an environment to socialise and build confidence. Workshops run on a Monday evening from the Pavilion. Mix Music have been able to offer other services to the community, including hosting daytime discos and providing DJ services for local volunteer groups.</p> <p>The Connections Bus was contracted to provide a mobile youth club (Tuesday evenings at Melbourn Village College). Unfortunately, the rather historic buses used did not pass the MOT resulting in a hiatus of the service. New buses were secured and renovated through the service and will commence visits from April 2025. The service is extremely popular with young people, and we hope the new buses provide even more opportunities.</p>
<p>Any future proposals of what they are going to do</p>	<p>It is planned to continue with the services above. Research is taking place into the development of youth provision in the area via extending or renovating parish buildings and by the introduction of a Youth Community Worker.</p>

Prepared by: Abigail Williams on behalf of Cllr John Travis, Chair MAYD Joint Committee.

Timebank and MACS (Melbourn Action Community Support)

Prepared by: Stephanie Trayhurn, Timebank and Community Coordinator

Highlights

MACS

Food Bank serves an average of **16** customers per week

Cozy Corner has **c30** visitors per week

17 average Hot lunches served per week

Support **MPS & MVC** with breakfast items

P3 Drop-in sessions 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month

Appreciative enquiry session at CC in March

MACS received extra ACRE grant March '25

Memory Cafés each month supported by Timebank

Craft Fairs raised over **£600** for **MACS**

Well-being Walk regularly has over **20** attendees

Community Growing Grant received for **Community Allotment** as Timebank members now manage with produce to Food Bank

April - Aquathon team raised £190

April - Trusted Partner Status' retained with over **65** applications including 15 for Meldreth and reapproved in April

May - Mental health workshop for TB, PO and Mobile Warden scheme held in May

May - Community Support for Dementia trip to **Felixstowe with TB members**

July & December - Volunteer **Parties** held in July & December

August - Big Picnic attended by over **50** people

September - Dog Café **3year** anniversary

October - **Macmillan Tea** party held at Cozy Corner raised £180

October - Large Harvest festival and Purim donations received from MPS

November - 'DanceAthon' with sounds by **Mix Music** raised **£400** for **MACS**

December - Christmas lunch/Dinner x 2 for TB, Dog Café and Wellbeing Walk members

On - going weekly & monthly activities

Mondays	Food Bank 10-12 and Cozy Corner 12-3 Games nights once per month
Wednesday	Wellbeing Walk 10.30 Yoga 17.00
Thursday	Coffee Morning and Food Bank 10-12 Cozy Corner 12-3.00
Saturdays	Memory Cafes every month Daytime Discos commence 31 st May

Membership

	April '24	March '25
Individual Members	138	167
Organisation Members	18	18

Total Hours exchanged

March '24	April '25
17,951	24,836

MACS CRAFTS

All proceeds in aid of
Melbourn Action Community Support



Wednesday 9th April
9.30am – 1pm at The Hub, Melbourn

For more information and donations please contact Stephanie Traynor 07463 176929 strobe@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk



TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON VILLAGE CHARITIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Trigg's Charity

The Trigg's Charity was set up in 1821 by John Trigg of Melbourn who left £2,000 for the establishment of a school for poor children in Melbourn, Meldreth and a six mile radius in South Cambridgeshire. The school was held in a barn but in 1854 was superseded by an infant's school built by John Mortlock and the Trigg's Charity money was distributed in the form of prizes, Arithmetic or Woodwork for the boys and needlework for the girls.

Occasionally money was given for a scholarship to a Cambridge school. Nowadays, the money is more likely to be requested for library, classroom or playground equipment or computer accessories. Each year the charity is restricted to dispersing only the interest on our capital investment, so not huge sums.

The Trigg's Charity demands a moiety between the Melbourn and Meldreth Schools and the other schools in the area.

In 2024 the Trigg's Charity once again invited applications from the nine local schools eligible for grants. The trustees awarded grants of varying amounts totalling £7,166 to all eight schools who applied to support a number of exciting projects, including contributions towards replacement outdoor playground equipment, reading books, school trips, laptops, music workshops and live music performances.

The charity will be reaching out to the schools again this year to invite applications and hopes for a similar high response rate and existing range of grant funded activities that the charity can at least in part help facilitate.

Phil Stewart

Treasurer and Secretary

On behalf of the Trigg's Charity

Martins Charity

The opening balance on 1st April 2017 - £21.55

The closing balance on 31st March 2018 - £21.55

The Clerk

25 April 2025

Francis John Clear Almshouses

Annual Report to Melbourn Parish Council 2025

This is my FORTY NINTH Annual Report from the Trustees of the Almshouses to the Parish Council. Don't hold your breath for next year!

Abi asked me to prepare a short report for the Parish Council, but as this year we celebrate the Centenary of the Almshouses I thought I would not take any notice of that, I am giving you the whole Shebang and am still only on about 1,000 words.

The Almshouses were formally opened at 4 pm on Thursday 18th June 1925 before "a gathering of members of the Clear family, a large number of the official leaders of the village life and a good proportion of others interested in the important event including the four old ladies elected to be the first occupants" among whom was the delightfully named Mrs. Christmas. Mr Clear said that his uncle Francis had always wanted to make provision for the women of Melbourn (? !). Reading the subsequent paragraphs of praise for the selfless life of philanthropy I felt they should have been sanctified. They lived simply, honestly, quietly, active in mind and body with a kindly interest in all human lives around them!

Well, enough of that.

When I joined the Board of Trustees the Almshouses were struggling. By 1985 the oil-fired central heating (installed in the 1960s) was extremely expensive to run and finances were becoming a worry. I was a District Councillor at the time and asked SCDC if they would like to purchase the cottages and incorporate them into their housing stock but there were problems. We sought permission of the Charity Commission to wind up the Charity and sell the properties, but they would not hear of it and eventually we wrote to the National Association of Almshouses telling them of our plight and the then Director, Mr. Flatley, immediately arranged a meeting with us.

This charming man, with whom I became quite chummy, arranged for a £4,000 grant to install a modern gas fired central heating system in 1985 and from that moment we began to flourish. I am quite proud of having made two contributions to the property, one was the erection beneath the commemorative stone of a plaque announcing the property as "CLEAR COTTAGES" which removed the 'poorhouse' connotation and the other was the addition of outside doors to the small entrance lobby which made a huge difference to the use of the kitchen and warmth of the property.

We flourished to a point where we felt we had enough money to add a fifth unit at the far end, an exciting idea. However the neighbours objected, and the plan never came to fruition. But we did make huge improvements - double glazed windows and doors, increased insulation in the loft, new porches on the back, new kitchen fittings etc. Mr. Flatley continued to take an interest in us right up to his retirement - I don't know what we would have done if he had not come to our rescue.

When the end property no. 55 became vacant we spent £26,000 on altering the internal layout with a wetroom and new kitchen although we retained as many of the 1920's features as possible.. Soon after we spent the money a Quinquennial inspection told us that we needed a new roof - well, we had just spent all our money but again the NAA came to our rescue. When we applied to them to release some of our investments, they said they would rather make us an interest free loan to be repaid over two years which we repaid with ease.

A year later the lady in no. 57 inherited a house and moved out so once more we did another major upgrade and again, rather than us selling shares the NAA offered us a £10,000 interest free loan.

We chugged along happily until last year when our longest serving resident died and another lady moved to a retirement home, so we had the two as yet unmodernised properties vacant and ripe for renovation. When no. 61 was almost finished, I took the opportunity of inviting members of the Parish Council to come and have a look round the apartment - something which has never happened before in my memory. Unfortunately, only Cllr John Travis was able to come, with two deputy clerks and I think they were very impressed with what they saw. I think I would be correct in saying every single workman we have had on site has asked if he could put his name down for a unit - but we are able to say Ladies Only!

We have a small but dedicated and reliable team of contractors who have carried out our repairs and maintenance for many years. The boilers and smoke alarms are regularly checked and we keep the front hedge well-trimmed back.

Recently we demolished a redundant chimney and are about to embark on renewing the concrete surrounding the building at an overall cost of some £8,000 and then, no doubt,

we shall have to repaint the property. As any house owner knows, there is always something to be done.

We debated whether to hold a small party for our Centenary but meeting on site would be weather dependent (never a good idea) so have decided to make a presentation to each of our Licencees. I have asked the Melbourn Magazine to give us the front cover of the Autumn issue and maybe once and for all we can convince people that the cottages at Sheepshead Row are NOT the village Almshouses!

John Poley was appointed a Trustee 12 months ago and has proved to be a great asset to the team. Brenda Meliniotis is still our dedicated Chairman and Arthur Alderton continues to control our finances. It would be rather fun to complete my 50 years as your representative, but I am giving you due warning that definitely sooner rather than later you are going to have to get one of your Councillors to take over my role!

Mavis Howard

March 2025

Melbourn & District Warden Scheme



Supporting the elderly and mobility impaired to remain independent in their home.

MDWS currently has 54 clients and can now offer its services to the villages of Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth, Whaddon, Barrington, Harston, Hauxton, Orwell, Grantchester, Haslingfield, and Foxton.

Services offered include regular face-to-face visits, daily phone calls, monitoring of health and safety, as well as providing practical errands, emotional support, and signposting to other support and well-being services.

For last December's Christmas outing, we took the MDWS clients for a lovely lunch at The Sheene Mill in Melbourn. The wonderful setting and well renowned reputation of this venue made our clients feel thoroughly spoilt. Transport for so many people is always a challenge, especially for some of our less mobile clients, but our wardens and trustees were all on hand to assist. Our clients enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. We will shortly begin planning our next outing for the summer months.

Following the recent retirement of our long-standing Head Warden, Jeannie Seers, I am excited to have stepped into her shoes and look forward to seeing where the future takes our scheme. With the funding challenges that lay ahead, we need to protect this vital community-based service and ensure its continuation for our vulnerable people.

Deb Stewart

Head Warden, Melbourn & District Warden Scheme

Melbourn Community Hub

The image shows the cover of the Melbourn Hub annual report for 2023/2024. The design features a grey background with red curved accents in the top-left and bottom-right corners. The title 'melbourn hub' is in red, with 'annual report' in black below it, and '2023/2024' in a bold black font. A quote in a grey box reads '"for the community by the community"'. The central graphic is a cluster of circular images: a group photo, two women at a table, a person at a computer, a chocolate cake with Easter eggs, a plate of food, a large indoor gathering, and a building with a 'hub' sign. A large red circle in the center contains the 'MELBOURN hub' logo. Contact information is listed at the bottom left.

melbourn hub
annual report
2023/2024
*"for the community
by the community"*

**MELBOURN
hub**

30, High St, SG8 6DZ
01763 263303
melbournhub.co.uk
 thehubmelbourn



John Travis (chair)



Chair's Report

This report records the progress made since last year across all aspects of the Hub business. The Hub has sustained a good position, against a challenging backdrop of rising costs and the emerging cost of living crisis.

The Scope

This covers the financial position as of 30th September 2024, alongside a general review and assessment of Hub operational highlights up to this date.

Our Board of Directors

The board welcomed two additional new directors - Sarah Alderton and Jackie Fox who bring extensive skills, further enhancing the experience and professionalism of the group. The directors continue to be supported by a number of other specialist individuals that help to deliver The Hub's positive business outcomes. Thank you to all of those offering this crucial support!



Linsey Craike



Jose Hales



Jonathan Berks



Jeannie Seers



Sarah Alderton



Steve Kilmurray



Jackie Fox



Our Staff...

form a strong and friendly team, responding professionally to the challenges faced by regular demand peaks in our popular cafe. Some recruitment of additional staff has been necessary to keep pace with kitchen duties and cafe service demand. The appointment of Gemma Dowling as Hub Manager this year, has had a positive impact on the day to day practical management of the overall Hub operation.

Our Community Library....

is a key service within The Hub's portfolio. In addition to providing access to an extensive book stock that is regularly refreshed, the library volunteers organise free meet the author events so the public can meet and learn more about the work of published authors. The service supported by a large team of volunteers including Mandy who runs the weekly 'story time' for the under 5s.

Room Hire...

remains stable but there is further capacity available to maximise, which is being worked on. The dedicated medical space created on the ground floor as part of **'Health at The Hub'** initiative, continues to generate regular income from the NHS block booking that remains in place. Weekly outreach services also contribute to room hire income.

Events...

'Turn on to Christmas' 2023 in partnership with Melbourn Fete, saw another fantastic community turnout to enjoy music, mulled wine and minced pies, plus children's activities, culminating in the switch on the Christmas tree lights. Other events and activities through the year included The Hub providing catering at Melbourn Fete in the summer, our annual Christmas Craft Fair and various pop up shops. Our popular art exhibitions continue to be booked up at for at least a year ahead! A projector and large screen was also added into the Atrium for use at public event presentations from visiting authors and health professionals etc.

Volunteers....

are a crucial element of our Hub business model. The Hub was proud to be nominated for the **BBC 'Make a Difference Awards'** for it's contribution to volunteering and made it to the final four! Volunteering at The Hub provides opportunities for people of a variety of ages and abilities in the library, cafe and at The Hub front desk. A vital role is performed by Linda Samson who provides essential Hub administration support, handling communications into and out of The Hub and room bookings. We continued to welcome several young people for work experience placements or for their Duke of Edinburgh awards. Whilst we have a significant number of volunteers, the recruitment of people volunteering for the cafe remains a little more challenging.

Marketing & Promotion...

continues to receive attention with the latest 'What's on' information about events and services published on our regularly refreshed website and on social media. Social media is also used to promote cafe food, special offers, events and room hire. We provide articles for and advertise Hub events in three local magazines, plus distribute occasional leaflets across the village.

Future Outlook...

is optimistic. Management processes and practices are further strengthened, with the help of the additional skills recently injected into the management team, plus the appointment of a dedicated Hub manager. Our annual customer satisfaction survey ensures that we are listening to our customers who have pleasingly rated us highly again this year! Improvement opportunities to cafe services are ongoing, to grow further trade and help counter the financial challenges that exist in the current climate. The management team is also working to secure the financial future of the established and successful 'Health at The Hub' partnership with Meridian Primary Care Network. This will benefit The Hub and the community it serves.

John Travis

Health at The Hub (HATH)



“

HATH Mission:

We strive to partner the NHS and other healthcare providers by offering top-tier community-based capacity. Our goal is to create a welcoming patient-centric environment that enhances accessibility, significantly improving health outcomes through a proactive focus on preventative measures in a neighbourhood setting:

”



HATH, the collaboration between Melbourn Hub and Meridian Primary Care Network (PCN), continues to support residents with chronic health conditions, mental health, and other wider determinants of health such as finances and employment. It provides local, community-based outreach to improve access to services such as employment support clinics, Citizens Advice, vaccination clinics, menopause cafes, health promotion, health checks, talking therapies and more. The initiative brings care closer to the community, improving accessibility to a growing range of health promoting services.

The Hub's dedicated treatment room has continued to host patients benefiting from GP surgery nursing clinics, offering services including phlebotomy, smear tests & suture removals etc. Diabetes checks, physiotherapy, mental health and Alzheimer's clinics are also a regular feature. The increasingly popular GP led menopause clinic has proved a vital support for so many local women.

The Hub proves popular generally with patients who comment on the relaxed setting and of course the availability of coffee and cake! Interestingly the patient 'did not attend' rate for Melbourn surgery booked appointments scheduled at The Hub, has been significantly lower than for those appointments scheduled at the GP surgery reinforcing the positive feedback received from patients.

HATH Future

To evaluate and quantify the current impact and outcomes of Health at the Hub, a steering group was formed involving The Hub, PCN, South Cambs District Council and the Integrated Neighbourhood Project team, to inform its strategic planning and build the case for further investment. The group has enlisted the support of Rose Regeneration, an economic development business, who will analyse the outcomes of HATH, to evidence its social value using a nationally recognised evaluation system, to help support future funding.



Health & Wellbeing Partnerships

The Hub has formed key partnerships with other health and wellbeing services that benefit the community.



We continue to collaborate with and host the NHS vaccinators on tour, delivering seasonal Covid 19 vaccination 'walk in' clinics, resulting in several thousands of people receiving a Covid jab to date.



Partnering with Nuffield Health, The Hub has hosted well attended evening events, offered free to the community, to provide advice and information from specialists about knee and hip replacements and breast health awareness.



Other partnerships have included 'Healthy You' offering health checks and Mind CPSL supporting mental health



Melbourn Hub's relationships go from strength to strength with advice and counselling services such as Citizen's Advice, Relate and Rape Crisis who recognise the benefits of the Hub's accessible and safe setting.



Local councils such as Melbourn Parish Council (who own the building) and South Cambs District Council are very much partners in helping to support the Hub's future.



The Hub maintains close links with local services such as Community Support for Dementia, the Mobile Warden Scheme, Community Transport, Timebank, organisers of the wellbeing walks and Foodbank to help direct people where these may be of help.



The Hub and its variety of services continues to provide a safe, welcoming space to socialise, contributing to good mental health and wellbeing.

People of all ages are welcome and our menus are kept as low cost as possible, to encourage community inclusivity. The Hub is breastfeeding friendly and has baby changing and accessible facilities.



Staff & Volunteers

The Hub's staff and volunteers truly are the lifeblood of The Hub, supporting the operation of the café, the library, reception and offering additional support for administration, art exhibitions, events and even voluntary driving to help some of our older residents attend lunch club each week!

Volunteering contributes towards positive mental health and wellbeing and we have been delighted to welcome a variety of volunteers from all age groups, backgrounds and young people on work experience.



A key development was the appointment of former catering manager Gemma Dowling to the role of Hub manager, overseeing all aspects of the day to day operation at The Hub. Gemma's role delivers support for customers, staff and volunteers for the many services and activities at Melbourn Hub.



Gemma with some of her cafe team

"I am enjoying the role as Hub manager and being a big part of the community. We have a fabulous team of staff and volunteers, who make The Hub such a great success"

We made a Difference!



In recognition of the value that our volunteers provide in the community, Melbourn Hub was thrilled to reach the final of the **2024 BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 'Make a Difference Awards'** in the category of 'Volunteers'.

The volunteer-led Melbourn Hub is a shining example of collaboration and partnership within a village.

The Melbourn Hub volunteers planned, built and operate this busy community centre.

Their vision for the hub was a facility 'for the community - by the community' and the loyal band of volunteers achieve this.

It has become a much-needed and loved venue providing a café with home-cooked food, meeting place, library and source of community services.

It's known as a place where people feel welcome, warm and safe.

We were initially just one of a very large number of entrants, but after chair John Travis was interviewed as part of the round one selection process, The Hub was delighted to find itself progressing to the next stage and were then absolutely amazed and excited to find ourselves in the final four! BBC Radio Cambridgeshire came to The Hub and made a short film which was featured on local news and social media. Some of The Hub volunteers attended the awards ceremony in September. Whilst we were not voted overall winner of the category, we can all feel so proud to have made it to the final four and collect an award for being a finalist! **All that remains to be said is thank you everyone!**

Our People



Directors / Trustees

Sarah Alderton
Jonathan Berks
Linsey Craike
Jackie Fox
Jose Hales
Steve Kilmurray
Jeannie Seers
John Travis (*Chair*)

Administration & Support

Denis Bulgin
Ben Crundwell
Linda Samson
Pam Sole

Drivers

Paul Ray
Keith Trigg

Cleaning Staff

Emma Baker
Heather Kallemdjian
Debi Kester
Kim Lill



30, High St, SG8 6DZ
01763 263303

melbournhub.co.uk

 [thehubmelbourn](https://www.facebook.com/thehubmelbourn)

Catering Staff

Emma Alderton
Lol Buckley
Jayne Clements
MacKenzie Coulman
Sarah Curuk
Gemma Dowling (*Hub Manager*)
Brodie Foy
Jenny Hartman
Jane Humphries
Hayley King
Max Laws
Sarah Roweth
Pratheeksha Sabu
Nadia Tomkins
Jess Wainwright

Library Volunteers

Joanne Abayasekara
Arthur Alderton
Viv Alsop
Janet Backer
Debby Brown
Viv Brown
Mary Cordiner
Sandra Dunn
Mandy Hanscombe
Jane Hanson
Lynda Mitchell
Janet Molloy
Siobhan Pitts
Maria Stapleton
Jane Stevens
Marilyn Symonds
Alison West

Cafe Volunteers

Sue Baker
Grace Bishop
Grace Brown
Jean Brown
Mike Buckley
Barbara Clarke
Tina Davey
Vicky DeVillie
Pat Fowl
Della Gibson
Annette Keclik
David Keclik
Jane Kirby
Pam Lambert
Pauline Mascall
Christine Newton
Liz Poulson
Stephanie Qadir
Ruth Sandiford
Chris Thomas
Tricia Willett

THANK
YOU!



Melbourn & Meldreth Lunch Club

Melbourn Hub provides a weekly lunch club every Tuesday for older residents, quite a few of whom are mobility impaired and clients of Melbourn & District Mobile Warden Scheme.

Lunch club is incredibly important, as it enables those with limited opportunities, to socialise, to come together, meet new people, chat and enjoy a delicious, cooked meal.

The Lunch Club offers a bespoke subsidised two course hot lunch with, juice, tea or coffee and many of those attending benefit from transport to the Hub provided by kind volunteers who offer to drive them to The Hub, without which they would be unable to attend.

Membership remains at around 18 people, often with a waiting list, but 18 is an optimum number to provide a suitable layout for the members needs in the available space.

The members look forward to their lunch each week, they also particularly enjoy having a chat with other lunch club members and staff. For some, this may be the only chance they have to socialise all week.

It is with grateful thanks to Melbourn Parish Council for their financial contribution which helps towards keeping the meals at an affordable price for the members.

Gemma Dowling
Melbourn Hub Manager

Melbourn Action Community Support (MACS)

In my role as Community and Timebank Coordinator I often hear people saying how fortunate they feel to live in Melbourn owing to the array of groups and support services which exist in and around our village.

Melbourn Action Community Support is one of these groups which as part of Melbourn Timebank and supported by Melbourn Parish Council, facilitates the Food Bank and Cozy Corner, both based at the Vicarage Close Communal room (what 3 words location /// wriggle.irrigated.craftsman).

The Food bank opens on Mondays 12-2 and Thursdays from 10-12 on a 'no referral, no voucher basis' and provides help with food to members of our community.

Cozy Corner opens on Mondays and Thursdays from 12-3 (except 4th Thursday of the month) in Vicarage Close providing a safe, warm welcome. A place of connection and belonging where you can enjoy free refreshments, play games, join the craft group or just sit and chat.

MACS (Melbourn Action Community Support) has a fabulous and committed team of volunteers and is also supported by many kind members of our community; individuals and businesses alike who donate food and money to make this all happen even in these hard times. Each and every donation is truly appreciated.

Look out for the Melbourn Timebank events calendar that details all activities, such as our Games Night, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or to get involved.

Stephanie Trayhurn

Melbourn Timebank and Community Coordinator

07483 176929

Community Rail Partnership

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership



200
Years of Train Travel
Since 1825



2024-25 Annual Report





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Cover photo: Station staff on Meldreth & Melbourn Railway Station in the 1920s. From left to right: Mr Allen, Mr Hale, Mr William Vellum, Mr Scott (Station Master) and Leonard Dodkin (clerk). Photo from Melbourn Magazine Winter 2002

Introduction by the Chair

It has been a busy and adventurous year for MSFCRP. Long-term projects like the Meldreth Station Link have come to fruition, and collaborations with community groups like Sustainable Shepreth have strengthened. Horizons have expanded in a multitude of ways.



A notable change to our organisation was the decision to wind up the 'Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group,' and consolidate the work of championing local rail under the auspices of the CRP. The RUG was established in 2009 and was the pre-cursor to the CRP; the CRP was now felt to be in a strong position to champion daily rail services, along with its growing community development programme.

At the same time, the notion of expanding the reach of our CRP to other South Cambridgeshire stations, both to share good opportunities with our neighbours, and strengthen the profile of local sustainable transport, gained a foothold through the offer by Greater Anglia, which runs through Whittlesford Parkway and Shelford Stations – and soon the new Cambridge South Station – of formal support to an expanded CRP. We look forward to working further on a new collaboration with these stations in the coming year.

New horizons have also been explored by the much-enjoyed Rail and Ale Trail: why not look and give it a try?

The most important have been universal themes of encouraging rail travel, through continuing School Outreach and schemes like Platforms for Change and confidence to travel through the Safety of Women and Girls event. First-time travellers are always greeted by our station gardens, setting the tone for the joy of train travel and the new horizons that it exemplifies.

With enormous thanks to all our volunteers, partners and supporters who make the Community Rail Partnership exactly what it says on the tin.

Susan van de Ven

Chair, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership

Projects

In this section of the report, we highlight a number of projects carried out this year and identify those pillars of Community Rail with which they are aligned.

Melbourn Station Link

We are delighted that work to widen, resurface and light the path between Melbourn and Meldreth station took place this year – a scheme we have long championed. We look forward to celebrating the opening this summer.

We are still concerned with the lack of accessibility at Meldreth for the London platform, and we invited our MP to the station in February help consider avenues to achieving better accessibility at Meldreth.



- ✓ Providing a voice for the community
- ✓ Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel
- ✓ Bringing communities together
- ✓ Supporting social and economic development
- ✓ Strengthening the partnership

Sustainable Shepreth Eco Fair

Once again, we enjoyed attending the Sustainable Shepreth Eco Fair in January with support from Shepreth Parish Councillor, Barbara Pankhurst. Our theme this year was Sustainable Transport, and we had resources to share covering walking, cycling, buses, rail and EV charging. Additionally, we conducted two surveys, one on the location of cycle racks required in Shepreth, where the Village Hall was top of the wish list, and one around uses for the station building at Shepreth - 90% of respondents told us they would like to see a café in the village, 67% wanted a meeting space and 62% a shop.

- ✓ Providing a voice for the community
- ✓ Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel
- ✓ Bringing communities together
- ✓ Strengthening the partnership



Safety of Women and Girls Event

Our Community Rail Partnership has always championed the fact that local rail is there for anyone and everyone. In December we organised an information stall at Cambridge Railway Station, offering valuable resources and guidance to help women and girls stay safe at night and on public transport, especially during the festive season. Cambridge Station is an important gateway to the night-time economy for visitors from connected villages and towns.

The event was a joint initiative with South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, the British Transport Police, Dardan Security, White Ribbon, Cambridge Businesses Against Crime (CAMBAC), Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre and Businesses Against Abuse. The event was hosted by Greater Anglia and supported by Stagecoach.



- ✓ Providing a voice for the community
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Meldreth Road Level Crossing

We have continued to help facilitate conversations between Network Rail and local parish councils around the upgrade of the level crossing at Meldreth Road, Shepreth. Because of safety concerns at the crossing, and in the context of a possible increase in the number of trains facilitated by the digital signalling upgrade, Network Rail intend to proceed with an application for a Level Crossing Order to upgrade the crossing from Automated Half Barriers to Full Barriers. We will continue to ensure that the concerns of local residents are heard.

- ✓ Providing a voice for the community

Platforms for Change

This year we worked with Letchworth Cubs to help them achieve their Platforms for Change badge. The programme involves several visits to the cubs and the station. We started with a rail safety talk at the cub meeting. This was followed by two further sessions at Letchworth Station of gardening/litter picking, followed by a cake sale when the cubs also had a “backstage tour” of the ticket office and station manager’s office. The final session was a train trip from Letchworth to Cambridge to visit the Botanic Gardens in September. We are very grateful for the help and assistance provided by our Govia Thameslink colleagues in facilitating these sessions, particularly to Karen Chudovszky, our Area Station Manager.



- ✓ Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel
- ✓ Bringing communities together
- ✓ Strengthening the partnership

School Outreach

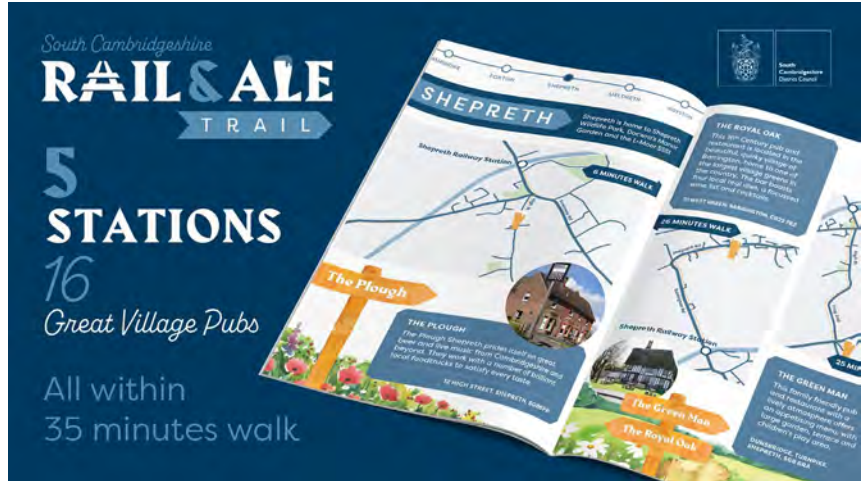
One example of our school outreach this year has been our work with Foxton School. We supported each of the four classes in the school to make sure that all pupils had received lessons in rail safety. Class Four had a lesson on safety and travel planning before a train trip to Cambridge for some comparative Geography. Class Three’s lesson focused on safety at level crossings, of which we have many local examples, followed by a visit to the signal box at Foxton station and a train trip to Royston to visit the town museum. Class Two had a rail safety lesson, followed by a visit to the signal box and a trip to Shepreth. We were very grateful for the support from Happy Bunnies Nursery School who allowed us to use their toilets to facilitate the trip. Class One had a lesson based on Arlo’s adventures including storytelling and games. Class One are saving their class trip for next year.



- ✓ Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel
- ✓ Bringing communities together
- ✓ Strengthening the partnership

Rail and Ale Trail

We worked with Visit South Cambs (VSC), to create the South Cambridgeshire Rail and Ale Trail aiming to support local pubs, promote the area to visitors and raise the profile of the VSC website. The booklet features 16 pubs all within half an hour's walk of five local railway stations and contains photographs of the pubs, plus maps detailing how to walk to them from the stations.



The trail was launched during Community Rail Week at the Tickell Arms Beer Festival. Hard copies were distributed to all the pubs featured in the booklet, plus local campsites and information hubs, and handed out at subsequent beer and music festivals. The trail was promoted by MSFCRP and VSC on their websites and social media. It also gained coverage in local newspapers and radio. A fruitful collaboration with the local CAMRA branch saw the trail highlighted in their email newsletter, website and magazine. The initiative has successfully encouraged visitors, including wheelchair users, to explore and enjoy the welcoming pubs along the route and reminded local people to use their local railway stations and rediscover the delightful views on their doorstep.

The trail has been shortlisted for a Tourism and Leisure Award at the Community Rail Awards 2025.



CERTIFICATE

OF SHORTLISTING

Your entry to the 2025 Community Rail Awards has been shortlisted in the category of

Tourism and Leisure Award

Sponsored by






H C Lavery
Hazel Lavery
Events & Fundraising Manager

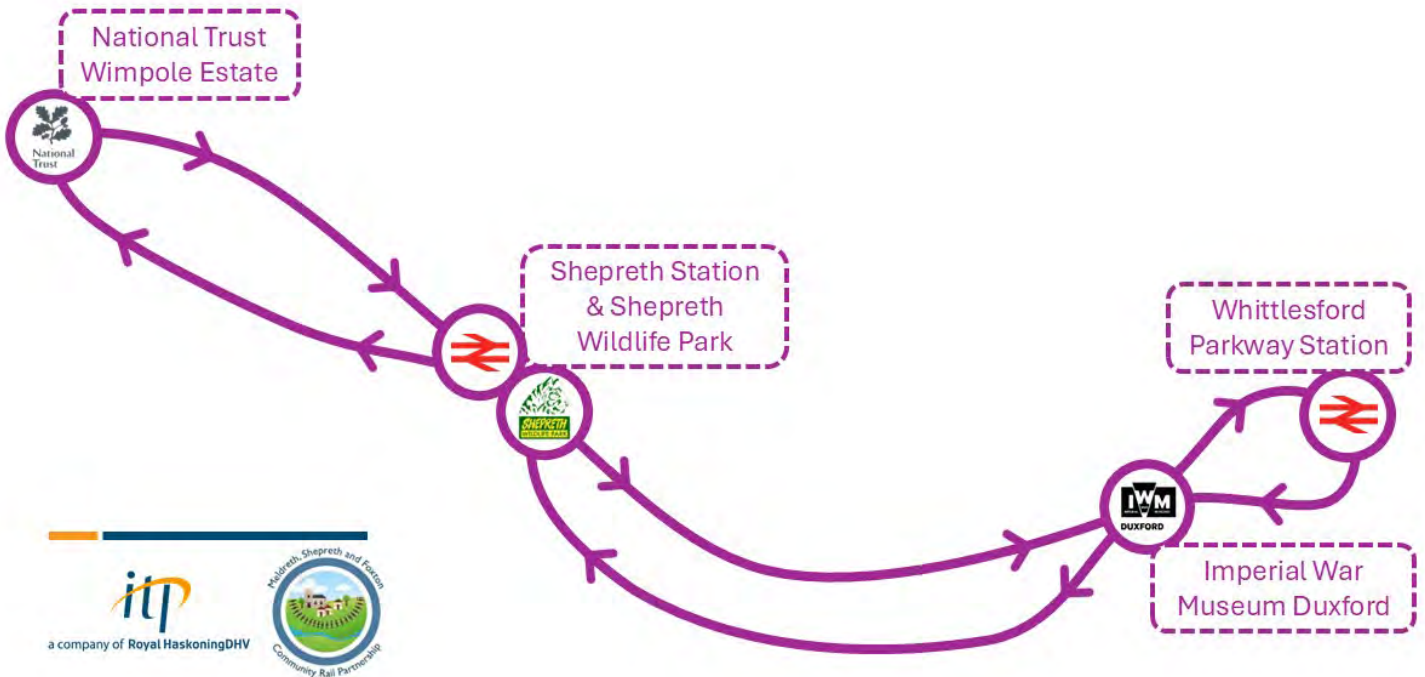


- ✓ Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel
- ✓ Supporting social and economic development

Eco Tourism Bus Feasibility Study

MSFCRP commissioned transport consultants ITP to conduct a feasibility study to understand the opportunities and constraints of providing a bus service to connect three tourist destinations in South Cambridgeshire: NT Wimpole Estate, Shepreth Wildlife Park and IWM Duxford with the railway stations at Shepreth and Whittlesford Parkway. Engagement with tourist destinations, rail and bus operators, and public sector officers were key to understanding the local context, and how such a service might serve residents alongside visitors. The resulting report highlights challenges associated with delivering mode shift in a rural environment, as well as opportunities for partnership working.

- ✓ Providing a voice for the community
- ✓ Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel
- ✓ Supporting social and economic development
- ✓ Strengthening the partnership



Financial Report and Funding

MSFCRP is extremely grateful for the continued funding support from Govia Thameslink Railway and South Cambridgeshire District Council. It is also thankful for continued funding from Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Parish Councils.

Accounts for 2024-25

Income

Core Funding	£16,451
Grants	£4,400
Brought forward from 2024-25	£21,440
Total Income	£42,291

Payments

Partnership Officer	£17,844
Operational Expenses	£434
Eco Tourism Bus Feasibility Study	£9,827
Accounting	£882
Total Payments	£28,987

Balance at 31 March 2025 **£13,304**



Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership

Our Partners



Melbourn Parish Council

Melbourn Village College

Meldreth Parish Council

Melbourn Practical Solutions Group

Shepreth Parish Council

Melbourn Timebank

Foxton Parish Council

Foxton Gardens Association

Phillimore Garden Centre

Meldreth Veg Club

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership

Our Community Rail Partnership aims to develop links with schools and local businesses associated with our local rail services, and to enhance sustainable transport links in the wider area. The partnership is hosted by South Cambridgeshire District Council and funded by Govia Thameslink Railway, the Parish Councils of Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton, and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The partnership is accredited by the Department for Transport. Accreditation is formal recognition by the DfT that a Community Rail Partnership operates to a high standard and that its objectives and activities are supported by Government.

The partnership would like to thank all our station volunteers, members of the Stakeholder Group and Hilary Marsh and Sarah Hatcher for recording the minutes of meetings.

Contact us

-  sarah.grove@scambs.gov.uk
-  meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk
-  @MSFCRP
-  MSFCRP
-  msf_crp



Community Allotment

In 2024 Jenny & Stuart Thame agreed to taken on the Community Allotment plot at St George's Allotment site. The scheme was awarded a £500 Community Growing Grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council.

We took on responsibility for the Community Plot towards the end of the summer last year. Plot 25A hadn't been worked for some time so we had plenty of hard work ahead of us in order to bring it back to a reasonable standard.

Stuart spent the best of the winter days digging over the existing beds and creating new ones. He was finally persuaded to try the popular No Dig approach after we had a substantial amount of cardboard to dispose of due to a furniture delivery, but he's really 'old school' and prefers to dig.

We now have 6 useable beds with more planned, good pathways have been laid using the wood chippings provided, the shed has been made more secure, the contents of the compost heaps sieved and added to the beds to revitalise the soil.

We've already planted broad beans and strawberries and potatoes are chitting and cabbages being hardened off ready to be planted later this month. We have plenty of trays of seeds in our greenhouse and on our kitchen cupboards, but a polytunnel is planned which will help with space problems. Hopefully the beetroot, lettuce, courgette, runner and French beans, peas and tomato seeds we will sow will all germinate.

We discovered a small wildlife pond at the top end of the plot and that has been tidied up in the hope we can attract wildlife and maybe the odd frog or two to help with the anticipated slug invasion.

The produce from our efforts will go to the Melbourn Community Foodbank, we are so pleased to be able to help in this way.

Jenny & Stuart Thame



BEFORE



AFTER



GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024 – 2025 AND HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

Balance brought forward from 2023/24	£2,803.75
Awarded for distribution 2024/25	£55,772.53
Available for distribution 2024/25	£58,576.28

Community Benefit Grants applications awarded on 8 May 2024

Melbourn United Reform Church	£2,597.20
Melbourn County Primary School PTFA	£3,780.00
Melbourn Bowls Club	£1,600.00
Melbourn Dynamos FC	£8,909.25
MAYD	£6,500.00
St George's Allotment Association, Melbourn	£1,022.00
Melbourn & District Warden Scheme	£3,000.00
Melbourn Lunch Club	£3,000.00
Melbourn Bell Repair Appeal	£1,000.00
Melbourn Fete	£2,500.00
Total awarded May 2024:	£33,908.45

Available for distribution December 2024: **£24,667.83**

Community Benefit Grants awarded on 2 December 2024

Turn on to Christmas	£1,321.00
Mix Music	£4,720.00
Home-Start Royston	£3,539.16
Relate	£4,700.00
Melbourn Magazine	£6,000.00
Melbourn Village College Squash Club	£1,200.00
Royston Rugby Club	£1,000.00
Melbourn Football Club	£1,731.00
Total awarded December 2024:	£24,211.16

Balance to carry forward: £456.67

Melbourn United Reformed Church



Melbourn United Reformed Church

www.melbournurc.org.uk
(The Linked Pastorate of Bassingbourn, Buntingford,
Gt Chishill and Melbourn)

Minister: Rev Sue Fender
The Manse, Meeting Lane, Melbourn, Royston SG8 6AN
Tel: 01223 375588 Mobile 07519 267395

FAO Parish Clerk
Melbourn Parish Council
Melbourn Community Hub
30 High Street, Melbourn

7 November 2024

Report of the use of Community Benefit Grant received in May 2024

We are very grateful to Melbourn Parish Council for the grant which has enabled us to improve the delivery of the Community Lunches at Melbourn URC.

We have publicly acknowledged our thanks for the Community Grant at one of the lunches which was met with a round of applause!

The grant has been spent as outlined in the application and the result is a much smoother, reliable and efficient operation. A great improvement in our view. The monthly lunches, for which there is no charge, continue to be well supported and we are approaching our 26th community lunch.

Estimated Project Cost: £5097.20
Grant Received £2597.20

Breakdown of funds used to date:

	Invoice value attached(£)
Buffalo Microwave	251.97
Replacement Oven, Hob and Pedestals etc	2834.92
Professional electrical work to install the above	753.60
Crockery for hall users	525.91
Kitchen trolley, kitchen equipment	283.68
Mugs for hall users	70.99
Jamie Oliver Saute Pans (x2)	98.00
Soup spoons, Salt and Pepper mills etc	129.00
Total Spent	4948.07

The project has a small margin of headroom from the original estimate (5097.20 minus 4948.07= 149.13) which will be used for better recycling bins and further Community lunch equipment.

With grateful thanks

Peter Karner
Convenor of the Kitchen Improvement Project

Secretary to Melbourn United Reformed Church
Mrs Anne Field, 7 Armingford Crescent, Melbourn SG8 6NG
Email: secretary.melbournurc@gmail.com Tel: 07901 814809

Treasurer: Mrs Beryl Monk, 2 The Limes, Bassingbourn, Royston SG8 5ND Tel: 01763 246458

Melbourn Primary School (MPS) PTFA

Report on Melbourn Parish Council Grant Expenditure by Melbourn Primary School PTFA
The grant provided by the Parish Council in April 2024 was used to cover the cost of the Primary School's PTFA annual fireworks display in order to keep the ticket price low for the community to attend, as well as raising much needed funds for the school.

The total amount of the grant was £3,780, which was used as follows:

The full amount of the grant was used to fund the fireworks display at the annual fireworks event held at Melbourn Primary School. It was a hugely successful night and was a sold out event with 1,300 tickets sold to school families and the wider community. The £3,780 grant covered the cost of the professional fireworks display which was provided by the professional company, Skyburst. This allowed for the profits made from ticket sales and other sales on the night from the bar, bbq and stalls to be used for the PTFA's fundraising priorities. This year profits are being put towards funding a new adventure playground for the children as their current structure is unsafe for use, as well as contributions towards school trips to the theatre, books for the children and easter eggs.

On behalf of the Melbourn Primary School PTFA, we would like to thank the Parish Council for their support in awarding this grant, and enabling this popular volunteer-run community event to be as successful as it was.

Audrey Campbell & Lauren Nash

Melbourn PTFA Co-Chairs

On Behalf of Melbourn Primary School PTFA

Melbourn Bowls Club

As per our grant request quotation £1525 of the £1600 was spent on the exterior repainting of our clubhouse.

The decorator did a great job and we are very pleased with the result.

The remaining £75 was spent on a new large Melbourn Bowls Club sign which we will put up in the spring to complete the improved appearance of the clubhouse, so we are very grateful for the PC grant which enabled us to do this.

Peter Blayney, Melbourn Bowls Club

Melbourn Dynamos Football Club



Report on 2024 MPC Grant Spend – Melbourn Dynamos FC

Melbourn Dynamos FC gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a grant of £8,909.25 from the Parish Council received on the 21st May 2024. This funding has been instrumental in supporting our club's operations, enhancing player development, and ensuring accessibility for all members of the community. The following report outlines the allocation of funds and the impact of the grant.

Details of Expenditure and Utilisation:

1. Renewal of Football Kits and Equipment

- The grant part-funded the purchase of new kits and essential training equipment for multiple teams across different age groups.
- The new kits have reinforced team identity and professionalism, while updated equipment has improved the quality of training sessions and match preparation.

2. Mental Health First Aid Training for Volunteers

- The grant fully funded training for 10 club volunteers in Mental Health First Aid.
- This initiative has strengthened our commitment to safeguarding and player welfare, ensuring that trained individuals are available to support players and volunteers experiencing mental health challenges.

3. Football Development Kits for Less Able Children and Adults

- The grant fully funded the purchase of specialised football development kits designed to make the sport more accessible for children and adults with disabilities.
- This investment has enabled more inclusive participation, aligning with our ethos as a community club that supports players of all abilities and has been paired with our recent start-up of inclusive training sessions on occasional Wednesday evenings.

4. Purchase of Box Goals for Older Age Groups

- The grant part-funded the acquisition of box goals for our older age groups.
- These goals have enhanced match play experiences and allowed our teams to train with appropriate-sized goals, aiding player development.

Impact on the Community:

The grant's support has had a significant positive impact on Melbourn Dynamos FC and the wider community. By reducing the financial burden on the club, we have been able to maintain affordable participation fees, ensuring football remains accessible to a broad demographic within Melbourn.

- **Beneficiaries:** Up to 500 people, including at least 287 parishioners, have directly benefited from the funded initiatives.
- **Enhanced Inclusivity:** The investment in football development kits has allowed individuals with disabilities to engage in the sport in a more structured and meaningful way.
- **Improved Player Welfare:** The Mental Health First Aid training has provided an additional layer of support for players and volunteers, fostering a more supportive club environment.
- **Strengthened Club Infrastructure:** The purchase of new equipment and goals has improved both training and match-day experiences for players at all levels.

Acknowledgements:

Melbourn Dynamos FC extends its sincere gratitude to Melbourn Parish Council for its continued support. Your contribution is not only an investment in our club's facilities and programmes but also in the well-being and development of our players and volunteers. With your assistance, we remain committed to providing an inclusive, accessible, and high-quality football experience for our community.

We look forward to maintaining a strong relationship with the Parish Council as we continue to grow and develop grassroots football in Melbourn.

Melbourn Dynamos FC

Ian Henderson
Club Treasurer
March 2025

St George's Allotment Association, Melbourn

Summary:

The St George's Allotment Association applied for and received a Melbourn Parish Council Community Grant in May 2024 to cover the hire cost of two 8-yard general waste skips (one for early summer and one for autumn), and to purchase soil improver for use on the Melbourn Allotments at The Moor, Melbourn. The grant received (£1022.00) was comprised of £536.00 for hire of two skips and £486.00 for purchase and delivery of ~10 tonnes of soil improver. Both skips were hired and the soil improver was delivered during the year.

Waste Clearance Skip Hire:

Two 8-yard general waste skips were hired from the Mick George Group and delivered to the allotments on 14th June 2024 and 18th October 2024. Plot holders rapidly filled both

skips by clearing non-compostable assorted rubbish from their plots, such as broken wire fencing, rusted metal, broken glass, waste plastic, etc., see photo.



This project is beneficial to all of the St Georges Allotment community and resulted in many tidier allotments. Having less rubbish on their allotments not only benefited the current plot holders but also provides legacy value to future tenants. It also benefited the local environment by removing environmentally harmful materials such as plastic and provides safer conditions for plot holders to tend their plots. It complements the ongoing work by the council to reduce the amount of asbestos cement fragments on the allotment.

Soil Improver:

The delivery of a lorry load of soil improver from Envar in Somersham, near Huntingdon, was arranged with Melbourn based A J Grab Hire Ltd, and on the 26th July 2024 they duly delivered 10 tonnes of lovely black gold, see photo. The soil improver was available to all plot holders and within a few weeks had been wheel-barrowed to individual plots by the holders. The known benefits of using it as a mulch include improved soil structure, increased moisture retention, weed suppression and better crop growth. The improved soil fertility will also benefit future plot holders as well as the current ones. The soil improver is generated from waste food and vegetation collected from households around the county and composted under ideal conditions by Envar.



Conclusion:

The hire of two skips and the purchase and delivery of soil improver have been completed; therefore both grant projects have been fully completed in 2024, bringing benefit to allotment holders and the allotment environment.

Melbourn Bell Repair

12th February 2023, one of the bells in Melbourn All Saints church tower began to make an unsettling thumping noise while being rung. We investigated immediately and discovered a large crack in the headstock, which is the fitting that attaches the top of the bell to the frame. See picture.

We established that this was due to a manufacturing defect when the bell was installed in 1987, and that the adjacent bell had the same defect but no crack - yet. Both bells were removed from the frame and their fittings and placed on the floor of the bell chamber. Quotes were sought for repair/replacement of the 2 headstocks, and this came to approximately £8000, or £6000 if a local team of bellfitters could remove and refit the bells.

Grants and fundraising was undertaken, including applying to Melbourn Parish Council. A loan was secured from the Supporters of All Saint (SOAS) to enable work to start in March 2024, before the MPC grant money was secured.

In March 2024 the local bellfitters team removed the two bells from the belfry and lowered them to ground level - no mean feat as each bell weighs 200-250 kg. The bells were collected in late March 2024 to have new custom-made headstocks fitted and tested.

October 9th 2024 the bells were delivered back to Melbourn and work began to hoist them into the tower and refit. This was a significant job taking many days owing to different fittings on the new (much better, stronger) headstocks. Realigning bearing sn pulleys and ropes took a little time, but the bells were fully functional by Thursday 24th and all 8 bells were able to ring out again on Sunday 27th October 2024 for the first time in over 18 months.

The money from Melbourn Parish Council's grant contributed to monies raised from cycle rides, personal donations and other grant applications. We managed to raise the £6000 necessary, enabling full repayment of the loan from SOAS. We have already had a visiting band of ringers attempt a peal (a 3-hour ringing session) on the newly restored 8 bells, and last weekend we conducted tours of the tower and bells for those attending the church's winter fayre.

The bellringers and church are extremely grateful for the grant which has restored 8-bell ringing to Melbourn and we look forward to many more years of ringing the bells for the residents of Melbourn.

Ian Cowley, Melbourn Bellringers Treasurer



Melbourn Fete

The Melbourn Fete Committee received a grant from the MPC Community Grant Fund of £2,500 to underwrite the staging of the 2024 Melbourn Fete. The funds were requested to cover the unavoidable costs which would have been written off if the event were cancelled.

The grant was spent as follows:

Item	Expenditure
PA System	£1020.00
Insurance	£420.00
Attractions	£1394.00
Total	£2834.00

The additional expenditure was taken from Melbourn Fete Committee funds.

Melbourn Fete Committee is very grateful for the continued support from the MPC. MPC's commitment enables us to stage important fund raising events for the community such as the Fete, Turn on to Christmas and Open Gardens. The Fete provided a platform for other community organisations such as HomeStart, Melbourn Hub and Melbourn Dynamos to raise money for their causes. We are in the process of donating funds the Fete raised to local community organisations.

C M Carter

Treasurer

13/10/2024

Turn on to Christmas

For this coming year the Turn on to Christmas (TOTC) committee is expecting to arrange another afternoon of festive activities. The committee start preparatory work after the summer holidays so no date is available at the moment or details of what will be arranged. However, generally it is the first Saturday of December and takes place at the hub. The ideas is to have a very low cost family event with music, children's activities, tombola, storytelling and face painting culminating with the turn on of the Christmas Tree lights. Turn on to Christmas has become a very well attended event to start the festive celebrations. The two hour program is now well established and appreciated by the village. The volunteers get enormous pleasure in being able to offer a low cost way for our fellow villagers to gather and although clearly it is in celebration of a Christian festival we strive to make the afternoon as inclusive as possible.

As you may be aware the TOTC event for 2024 had to be cancelled at short notice due to forecasted very strong winds and heavy rain which passed through the Melbourn area during the event. This demonstrated the importance of funding from the PC as it underwrites the upfront costs of the event.

I look forward to working with the PC to secure a grant for TOTC at the Autumn Community Grant allocation meeting later this year.

Trevor Purnell

Chair

TOTC

Mix Music



Prepared By:
JASON COULMAN

**COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (MIX
MUSIC DJ (SOUTH CAMBS) C.I.C -
REGISTERED NUMBER: 15489913)**



UPDATE

ON MIX MUSIC

Mix music Sessions continue to run at the Melbourn Pavillion on Monday evenings. Work needs to be done to attract more Children and gain more recognition.

The objective of the community DJ workshops is to equip young participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to explore DJing as both a hobby and a potential career path.

On the 28th September we officially launched the MMDJ stream and held an 8 hour streaming event with guest DJ's and MC'S in attendance. The stream was well received in the industry and a regular schedule has been agreed.

After a round of successful funding Mix Music now have two smaller DJ units which allow two people to DJ at the same time. We have 2 Laptops, we have been in discussions with a leading equipment company who are able to obtain us preferential rates on the production software, we are trying to obtain the licenses and will be offering lessons using FL Studio.

We were also successful in a grant to provide a LOKLIK cutting machine. Currently the youth are making Keyrings to get used to the equipment. The ultimate goal is that they will be making merchandise to showcase at the Melbourn Fete.

Mix music have agreed dates with the Time bank to DJ at a number of Day Discos.

Discussions are in process with the local primary school about attending the summer fayre showing the younger children how to use the equipment and finishing with a DJ set. One of the youth was recognised for his DJing in the senior school newsletter.





The funding and support that we have managed to secure over the last couple of years has been phenomenal and helped immensely.

We are planning to arrange a visit to a DJ convention event later in the year which is held by West End DJ to showcase the latest equipment. We are still in discussions to secure support and collaboration from them.

We will be attending the Melbourn Summer Fete and have set up a timetable for one to one sessions.

The ultimate goal would be to establish a dedicated space with a practice room and a fully working studio. With a lounge area for the youth to use as a safe space which could provide other youth services. We understand that this is a future goal and have smaller goals in mind whilst discussions take place. We are excited at the possibility of a dedicated youth worker to provide extra support.

Mock streams and 1:1 sessions are held in the studio which has proved to be a huge hit. We need to keep promoting the stream and we have been going live via tiktok.

We are yet to push this out locally and the current streams are all based on our youth DJ's.

Future sessions.

We are looking to get more guest speakers to attend and showcase different talent e.g. for our girls some female DJ's producers, vocalists.

We have regular day discos arranged with the Time Bank, this is something we would like to expand on within the village.



WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

By providing these sessions we have:

- Empowered the youth through creative expression and artistic exploration.
- Provided them with a sense of belonging and community engagement.
- Provided opportunities for skill development and personal growth.
- Supported the youth with confidence in public engagement by streaming online and microphone lessons.







We would like a dedicated space to hold sessions ideally closer to other facilities This is to be discussed for the future.

We have a few event bookings coming up for a couple of our djs which is a great achievement.



Thank you from the Mix Music Team.

Relate (Relationship Counselling Cambridgeshire)



WE ARE TRADING UNDER A NEW NAME!

As we enter our 80th year Relate Cambridgeshire will be rebranding as

Relationship Counselling Cambridgeshire

This follows the administration of Relate National Ltd in December last year.

Our high-quality services will continue unaffected, delivered by the same staff and to the professional standards that we have always maintained.

We will continue to work in partnership with other centres which previously formed part of the Relate Federation to strengthen our ability to serve our beneficiaries and meet the ever-evolving needs within our communities.

Claire Godward, Chief Executive of Relationship Counselling Cambridgeshire said

"This is a great opportunity for us to expand our services. And we will continue to seek out new partnerships and collaborations locally and nationally to enable us to deliver joined up services and support, which will span the whole of England and Wales".

Working at the heart of our communities Relationship Counselling Cambridgeshire will continue deliver a wide range of support to couples, families, children and individuals across Cambridgeshire and surrounding areas.

If you want to get in touch: Please call us on **01223 792226**



Melbourn Statistics

From 31st of March 2024 to 1st of April 2025

We provide services that help relationships thrive. Our work improves mental health and wellbeing and helps prevent loneliness, depression, abuse, homelessness and parental conflict.

Residents: Appointment Data

145

Number of
Appointments
Delivered

19

Number of
Cases Seen

35

Number of
Clients Seen

Most Common Presenting Issues for Melbourn Residents

Presenting Issue and Number of Cases	
Mental Health/Illness - 11	Work - 2
Communication Problems - 8	Autism Spectrum Condition - 2
Trust - 4	Domestic Violence - 1
Sexual Problems - 3	Menopause - 1
Affair - 3	Adolescent Children - 1
Intimacy - 2	Past Relationships - 1

Melbourn Grant Allocation 2024-2025

Within the period of March 2024 and April 2025, the Melbourn grant of £5000 has supported a total of 19 cases, 35 individuals with their relationship and personal problems. We are to start the allocation of the new grant of £4,700 from April 2025 with no break in service.

The grant has additionally been allocated to support the room hire at the Melbourn Hub venue where we offer Friday morning sessions every week. The total contribution to this is £2,484. Any further contribution such as counsellor costs, management, admin and supervision is a total of £2,326 ensuring a high quality and smooth counselling experience.

Relationship Counselling

Cambridgeshire

Melbourn Statistics

From 31st of March 2024 to 1st of April 2025

We provide services that help relationships thrive. Our work improves mental health and wellbeing and helps prevent loneliness, depression, abuse, homelessness and parental conflict.



Client Feedback

“Huge thanks to Isabelle for her helpful and guidance over the last few weeks. We are in a much better place than when we started ~ have a better understanding of each others needs and difficulties and are more compassionate and better in our communication.”

“Isabel was an excellent listener and very thoughtful on working out strategies with us. An excellent experience.”

“Thought the process was very rewarding – helpful and sensitive, perceptive and empathetic when proposing a way forward. The counsellor listened and asked good questions to gain a good understanding of the situation and so was able to help us. Many thanks.”

Home-Start Royston

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

(incorporated as Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire)

Unit 6 Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Royston, Herts, SG8 6JP

www.hsrsc.org.uk ▪ Email: admin@hsrsc.org.uk ▪ Tel: 01763 262262



Melbourn Parish Council Community Benefit Grant Report

Prepared for: Melbourn Parish Council

Date: 18 March 2025

We are so grateful for your funding in December 2024, which enabled us to provide crucial home-visiting support to two vulnerable Melbourn families. One family was referred to Home-Start by their Health Visitor and the other family contacted Home-Start themselves.

The families' **diverse and complex issues** included:

- Poor Parental Mental Health
- Mother struggling with anxiety
- Multiple birth
- Finding individual time for each child challenging
- Children with potentially life-threatening health issues requiring ongoing monitoring/treatment
- Managing complex family relationships
- Inability to take multiple children out independently
- Lack of local family support
- Financial difficulties
- Mother trying to juggle a business alongside parenting
- No time to complete household tasks or make calls
- No time to complete paperwork/forms
- Mother overwhelmed and finding processing tasks into manageable chunks difficult

The Community Benefit Grant has enabled our highly-trained volunteers to begin meeting with the families for 2-3 hours every week, providing bespoke practical and emotional support, which is non-judgemental, confidential and free. This included:

- Providing a listening ear and emotional support
- Giving reassurance and positive feedback
- Helping to feed and bathe the babies
- Engaging with the children to give Mother time to make calls, prepare important meals crucial for managing children's disabilities
- Helping the family get out of the house and visit The Hub, walk to the park
- Enabling parent to have 1-1 time with each child by spending time with each child individually
- Parental support with childcare decision, supporting a plan to return to part-time work
- Signposting for more specialist support where appropriate

- Support to find out about and try other local parent/child groups
- Support to process tasks into manageable chunks

The positive changes we have begun to see and hope to see as support continues include:

- Improved Mental Health for mother
- Mother feeling more on top of important meal prep for babies, alleviating anxiety around managing their condition
- Improved relationships between parents
- Improved relationships between Mother and other family members
- Mother more time for each child and feeling less guilty
- Mother and babies able to leave the house and get out to the park, The Hub and other local places
- Mother happier to support craft activities at home
- Mother starting to plan a return to work
- Mother feeling more in control of managing business

To date the parents have given us the following feedback, regarding our support:

"[Our Volunteer] was so lovely with the girls and was so nice to have some company! Thank you"

Melbourn Magazine

Melbourn Magazine which is produced four times a year and posted through every house in Melbourn for FREE is managing to continue with the generous help of the Community Benefit Grant of £6,000 which it received towards the end of 2024.

The magazine seeks to be self-sustaining but since Covid and the current economic pressures everyone is under pressure and the advertising revenue has dropped. We are doing all we can to sustain and increase that revenue and are very grateful to a few large Melbourn companies who are extremely generous with continued sponsorship (TTP) but we are aware that even these businesses can have their own financial needs and it would be unwise to totally rely on just their support.

The magazine is produced by a team of volunteers and its only costs are the printing costs, but sadly like everything else, despite the supplier involved giving special rates it is the largest cost the magazine has. An army of local people deliver the magazines and it features local information and articles. The product is in full colour and A4 with print large enough for those who need it and it is appreciated by many people who do not use computers or smart phones to run their lives. We are frequently given positive feedback from residents and it would be hard to find another grant that has helped as many people

as the grant we have had has. It has reached every single resident of the village and could not be more fairly distributed.

As the years progress the Magazine will serve as a history document for the village and its occupants as it continues to give great enjoyment with its articles to read and help with its local adverts for trades we may want to use and for new residents moving to the area it gives invaluable information of clubs, groups, societies and places to visit and meet other people and ways to join in the very active and productive Melbourn Community.

Gillian Morland - Melbourn Magazine Committee Member

Melbourn Village College Squash Club

Thanks for your message, and again to the committee for the grant funding. It's being spent in the same way as in previous years, namely to fund the delivery of a weekly term-time coaching session, by our professional club coach, to juniors players.

Matthew Walker, Melbourn Village Squash Club

Royston Rugby Club

No report available at this time.

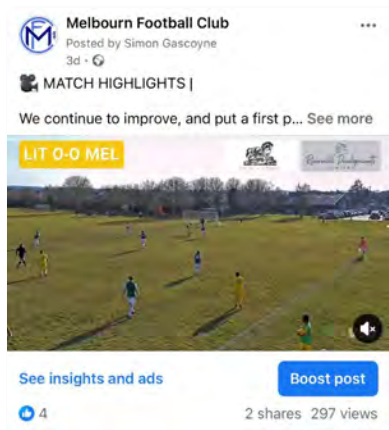
Melbourn Football Club

Grant awarded: £1,731.00

The whole amount was spent on the Veo video recorder. The price had increased before we got the money, meaning we didn't have enough left for the footballs and topsoil. However, the Veo recorder has been in use each game (even away games). Having it has meant we have been able to produce highlights of matches to our social media pages, to increase interest in grass roots football. In turn, providing opportunities for sponsorship revenue to grow.

We've also been able to provide real time feedback and assist tactically during games.

Thank you again to the council for this support.



DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT 2025

District Cllr Jose Hales & District Cllr Sally Ann Hart

Local Government Review

South Cambridgeshire District Council 2024 was formed in 1974 following a review of local government, so 2024 was the council's 50th anniversary year. Fifty years later, the government is conducting another local government review, and it now looks virtually certain that the council will cease to exist in a couple of years with its activities subsumed into a unitary authority. What the new unitary authority will look like is still being worked through by the minister of state and during the coming year we will keep you updated as we learn more.

Recruitment and the four-day week

The four-day week trial was an attempt by SCDC to see if they could improve the services they provide to council-tax payers by improving staff recruitment and retention in the Greater Cambridge area (South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City). Planning officers and HGV driver posts (to drive our waste-collection vehicles) have been particularly difficult to recruit because the council cannot pay the kind of rates that commercial housing developers and lorry firms can pay. Faced with a high risk of disruption to services and a large bill for agency staff the administration felt it had to act.

The plan was that staff would work smarter, using technology and working efficiency to deliver 100% of their work in 80% of the time. Four-day weeks are becoming more popular in the private sector because there of the benefit in staff health and wellbeing.

Unfortunately, the Conservative government was against the plan and threw a number of obstacles in the council's way, including a 'best value notice' and the threat of 'financial levers'. These demands meant that the council had to spend a great deal of time and money providing the government with detailed data that they subsequently didn't use and meant that the final report on the trial could not be completed until the council knew what the financial penalties might be. The administration considered it has a democratic mandate to manage the council's affairs in the best way it thought fit and that the government was meddling in a local matter. In the end, the council stood firm and completed the trial, which showed a positive effect on recruitment and a significant saving in agency fees. The incoming Labour government took a completely different view on the trial to the Conservatives; they did not renew the best value notice, and they lifted the financial threats meaning the trial report could be completed. We are now moving to a

conclusion of this long-running saga; in recent weeks, a consultation was conducted, now concluded, and the data has been sent to an independent assessor. Once the conclusions have been received, a final report will go to full Council for them to make a long-awaited decision as to whether the four-day week should become permanent.

Local Government (LGA) Peer Challenge

The LGA's peer challenge programme offers every local authority the opportunity to have its performance monitored by elected members and officers of other council. It is intended to be a 'critical friend' to support continuous improvement. SCDC invited a peer review team during 2024, and their report praised the council for 'strong ambition', 'good leadership' and 'innovative approaches'. They congratulated SCDC on being one of the few councils in the country to have a very strong financial position with an impressive return on investments. One criticism was that (in common with many other councils) there were a small number of unaudited yearly accounts; these accounts have now all been submitted for scrutiny by the government's auditors and are as up-to-date as they can be.

Mobile Wardens scheme

SCDC continues to support the Mobile Wardens Scheme, which offers support and assistance for older people to allow them to continue to live independently at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) either by a personal visit or by a telephone call, to ensure a sense of security and wellbeing. SCDC is dedicated to supporting this scheme and pledged funding of £345,000 in 2024. Melbourn Parish Council also provides financial support for this vital service.

Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme

£360,000 was recently awarded to nine local organisations from the Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme. The funding for this scheme comes mainly from the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority with supplementary funds contributed by SCDC. The scheme empowers voluntary groups, parish councils and community-minded businesses to tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions from community assets.

Cost of living crisis mitigation

In 2025, SCDC supported 1,785 people with cost-of-living assistance and has invested in specialist Low Income Family Tracker, (LIFT) software, which allows the council to give targeted cost-of-living support to the most vulnerable people in the district.

Business support

The council has supported and encouraged numerous markets around the district and there are now 14 markets running regularly throughout the year. SCDC's own Christmas Market has been very successful and has hosted 240 traders since 2021, attracting up to 1,500 visitors annually.

SCDC was given the responsibility for allocating Government grants to support local businesses, communities and the local economy. This included £876,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and £200,000 to help rejuvenate some of the district's high streets.

Green to our core

SCDC have reduced emissions from our operations and estate by 22% from 2018/19 levels and provided funding to help communities respond to the climate and ecological emergencies, including £625,000 through our Zero Carbon Communities grants.

The second annual South Cambs' Climate Action Conference was held in Cambourne.

Improvements to customer service

In late 2024 the council launched 'SAM', an artificial intelligence (AI) website assistant. In its first 25 days it received 1,152 requests for help - of which 87% were successfully responded to by SAM without needing human intervention. A new-look website has just been launched which offers easy access to information that is relevant to a resident's area such as bin collection schedules and planning applications.

Homes for Ukraine scheme

Sadly, the need for the Homes for Ukraine scheme remains. SCDC has supported 937 guests since the start of the conflict one of the highest in the country for a District Council.

Social Housing Stock

Social Housing Stock SCDC is committed to providing affordable social housing by increasing its housing stock. The new build this year has been 85 against the target of 75. This doesn't include a further 26 houses that just missed the end of year cut off.

Community Chest Grants

The Council continues to provide Community Chest funding, and this reflects the Council's commitment to sustaining grassroots initiatives and supporting a stronger, more connected

community. By investing in these organisations, the district ensures that local people continue to benefit from essential services, social opportunities, and support networks. Community Chest grant funding is available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire. A total of £59,160 was available this year. Ward recipients of funding include Mix Music DJ and Melbourn Fete Committee.

COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

County Cllr Susan van de Ven

County Council Statutory Duties

Children's and Adult Social Care, Public Health, Children's Services (including Schools, Special Educational Needs, Children and Family Centres, Education Transport) Highways, Minerals and Waste (disposal and recycling centres), Libraries.

Key themes

- Since the 2008 financial crash Government Revenue Support Grant has declined dramatically placing a greater burden on Council Tax which is capped. Over time this has resulted in the loss of numerous non-statutory services and the consolidation of others.
- Our county is characterized by some of the highest population growth in the country due to the continuing national interest in growing the Cambridge area economy and resulting requirements for planned development.
- Children's and Adult Social services account for about 75% of our overall budget and are driven by demand; often they work alongside health services in complex accounting arrangements.
- The aging population is more pronounced in Cambridgeshire than nationally.
- While most social services are based on statutory need, the council has managed to deliver small budget but effective universal prevention services.
- Infrastructure is generally old and maintenance very challenging. While significant sums have been budgeted by the council for highways maintenance, and some government grants have been made, the estimated financial requirement to bring the network into proper repair vastly outweighs what is possible.
- Library Services have been resilient; this has been strongly supported by volunteer-run community services in villages like Bassingbourn and Melbourn.
- Public service ethos is strong, and the council is fortunate to have a dedicated workforce in challenging circumstances. New apprenticeship schemes are doing well.
- This week marks the conclusion of the 2021 Administration, which has been made up by a multi-party collaboration (Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent).

Budget headlines

- Investing £21 million into the county's 4,500 miles of road network, footpaths, multi-use paths, and drainage systems in 2025-26, with a further £20 million being invested in 2026-27.
- Investing £20 million over the next 3 years to support providers of adult social care services to pay care workers the Real Living Wage, helping to recruit and retain people to deliver these essential services.
- Investing £6.8 million in low carbon heating for schools and council buildings and £8.7 million being invested to deliver enhanced and upgraded household waste recycling centres in Milton and March.
- We have a budget gap of £34.2 million in 2025-26 which needs to be closed.
- Council tax increase of 4.99% for 2025-26. This increase will generate around £20 million in additional funding, helping to balance the books and set a legal budget, but more importantly, committing to:
 - ensuring that adult care services can continue to support and protect vulnerable adults by investing over £30 million to meet rising demand and costs and supporting the social care workforce.
 - funding almost £0.8 Billion investment in capital expenditure to build new schools, investing in care and community facilities, including libraries, and continue to deliver our ambitious net zero target.
 - provide £2.5m to maintain holiday school vouchers for those most in need.
 - sustaining home to school transport for children in education across the county by a further £4.7 million in additional funding to help meet rising demands and costs.
 - helping to provide extra capacity to support children and young people in care and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

My Local Priorities

- Responding to individual resident queries
- Regular reports to and liaison with parish councils
- Practical Solutions Groups for Bassingbourn and Melbourn in association with primary and secondary schools: supporting young people, intergenerational and community ventures.
- Liaison with North Herts and Herts County Councils for common concerns
- Cam Vale Bus User Group to advocate for local services
- Ivy Farm Bridge Bassingbourn-Royston A505 - work with Herts CC as bridge owner in quest to create right of way over existing agricultural bridge

- Meldreth Shepreth Foxton Community Rail Partnership to advocate for local rail services including maintaining the 16-17 yr student fare discount for all education and training Cambridgeshire rail travel; direct link to Cambridge South Station; community development opportunities
- Melbourn Greenway for enhancement of local active travel connections between Cambridge and Royston and very locally in Melbourn and Meldreth: Meldreth Station Link path, potential traffic calming measures, off-road A10 link to Royston
- A505 Study Group - considering opportunities for future safety and access along A505 between Royston-Duxford
- Anglian Water liaison

My County Council area of responsibility

- Co-Chair of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board/Integrated Care Partnership alongside local NHS, working collaboratively for coordinated move to localize and integrate preventive approaches to health and care.
- Vice Chair of Adults and Health Committee, overseeing Adult Social Care and NHS Scrutiny:
- County Council Partnership Governor, Cambridge University Hospitals Trust

'Cambridge 2050'

- Michael Gove announced a plan in July 23 for 250,000 homes in Greater Cambridge by 2040.
- In November 2023 he revised this to 150,000 homes
- Government's 'Case for Cambridge' published March 2024
- The Greater Cambridge Local Plan process is for 50,000 homes by 2041
- EWR Southern route chosen - impacting Harston, Haslingfield etc
- Cambridge South Station to open Jan 2026

Local Government Reorganisation

Government is conducting a major local government review, and it now looks virtually certain that the district and county councils will cease to exist by 2028 with their activities subsumed into a unitary authority. What the new unitary authority will look like is still being worked through by the minister of state.


Council tax in Local Government context (Band D property)

Authority	Amount
Cambridgeshire County Council	£1,431.19
Cambridgeshire County Council: Adult Social Care Precept	£269.45
South Cambridgeshire District Council	£175.40
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£299.43
Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	£87.21
Mayoral Combined Authority	£36

ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2025

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

AWARD MADE AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
12 MAY 2025

Charlie Borrowdale

In recognition of his efforts to support and promote the food bank as well as fostering a strong sense of community spirit by encouraging peers and staff at Melbourn Village College to contribute and raise funds.

Cllr Graham Clark
CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Abi Williams
PARISH CLERK

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



ALL-ROUND GOOD EGG

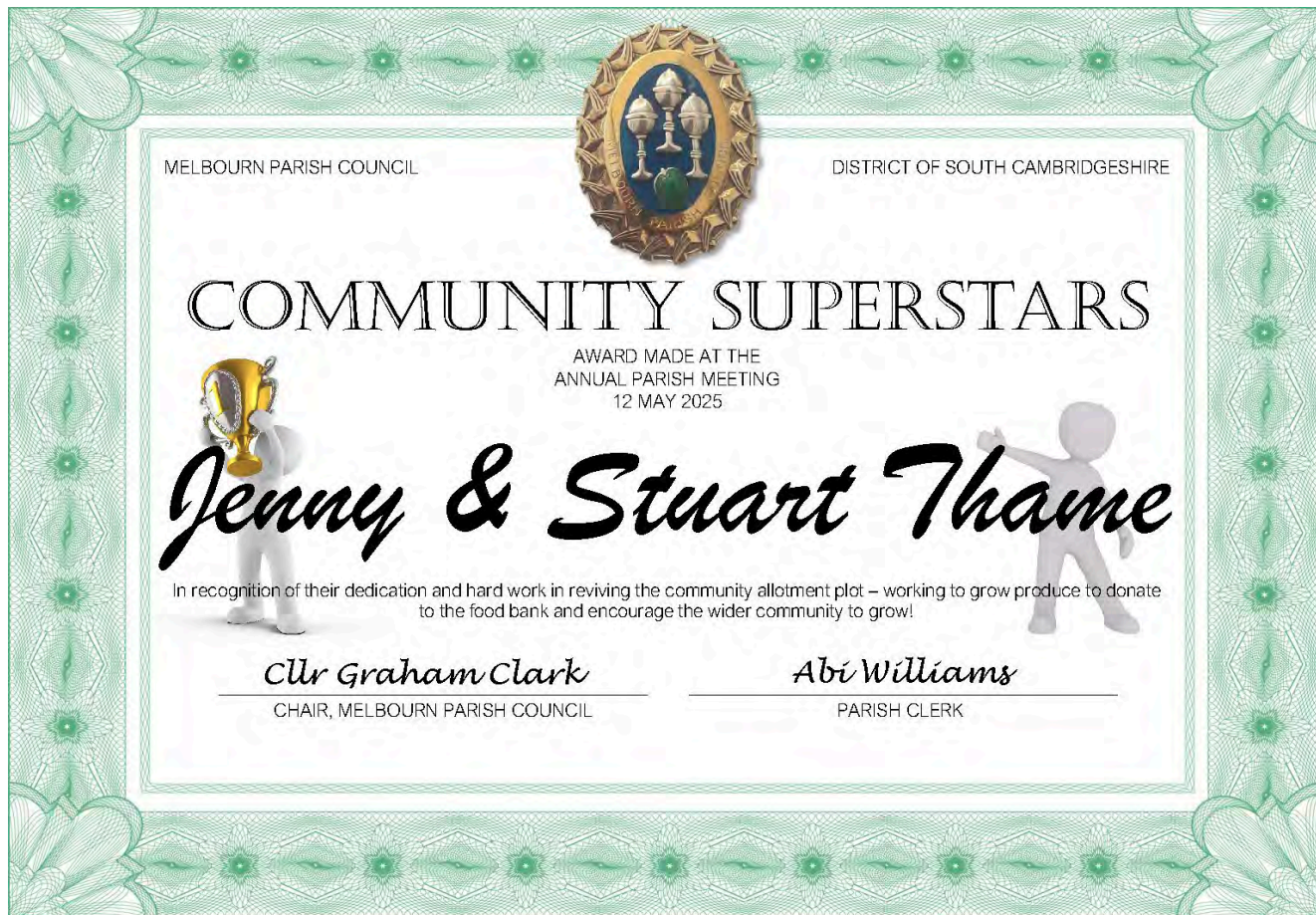
AWARD MADE AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
12 MAY 2025

Julian Ireland

In recognition of his continued support for the wider community and with thanks for the refurbishment of the seating shelter.

Cllr Graham Clark
CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Abi Williams
PARISH CLERK



MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



COMMUNITY SUPERSTARS

AWARD MADE AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
12 MAY 2025



Jenny & Stuart Thame

In recognition of their dedication and hard work in reviving the community allotment plot – working to grow produce to donate to the food bank and encourage the wider community to grow!



Cllr Graham Clark

CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Abi Williams

PARISH CLERK

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



Melbourn Parish Council

Melbourn Community Hub, 30 High Street,
Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, SG8 6DZ
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ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

I cannot believe that we are already into 2026. The last year has been extremely busy for the Parish Council and staff. I would like to thank the entire team for all their continued efforts in ensuring that residents are supported. Our office team deal with all manner of enquiries, some we can handle ourselves; some must be directed to other authorities. That said, our team are conscious that it is important to be on hand to advise and help where possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Clerk Abigail Williams on passing her CiLCA qualification. The Certificate in Local Administration, well done. On a sadder note, I have to report that John Travis decided to step down from the Parish Council in June 2025 after many years of dedicated and loyal service to the community. His energy, guidance and capability will be seriously missed. We all wish him well in his retirement from civic duties.

The team have had a challenging year with a number of office initiatives coming to fruition. The bedding in of a new computer system which was introduced to improve our operation and accounting platforms. This has gone well and we are now starting to see the benefits and efficiencies of the system. This coupled with the updating of our record system, to enable us to meet the requirements of a growing village have ensured we are geared up for the challenges ahead. Furthermore, thanks go out to our Wardens, you will often see them busily attending to village needs. Terry Muncey, screwdriver in hand, will often be seen mending and replacing things in need of repair. If you visit the Moor car park you will see a bug hotel on the grassed area, this was made by Steve Pitman. We are preparing to sow wildflower seeds on the grassed area which, hopefully, will attract wildlife in due course. Something for the Little Hands nursery children to enjoy.

I think it is also important to outline some of the key initiatives that are ongoing. Firstly, through the Time Bank and Community Coordinator Stephanie Trayhurn we have seen a continued growth of the Time Bank initiative, including the successful Cozy Corner, which gets people in the village together, enjoying lunches and activities, all helping to create a community village spirit. We have also seen the benefits of the food bank run out of the

Pavilion building. This is a needed and well supported operation by Stephanie and her team of volunteers.

Also, we are now hopeful that Stockbridge Meadows will be designated a Local Nature Reserve soon. We are liaising closely with County and District Councils to achieve this goal. This is a project that is being worked on by a collective of enthusiasts and volunteers - our own conservation warden Keith Rudge, the River Mel Restoration Group and the Stockbridge Meadows Volunteers have all been actively working hard to achieve this goal fully supported by Abi and her team. We are hoping for good news soon.

Furthermore, the Futures Working Party has been one of the successful recipients of another Local Highways Improvement (LHI) grant. This grant was pitched to support the safer school initiative. Aiming to make the surrounding area to the Primary School safer with road improvements following a detailed analysis by the LHI team engineers. Hopefully, these improvements will encourage more parents and carers to walk their children to school instead of driving them. Following the successful application the LHI management team will be undertaking a village wide consultation. We hope, this will be well received in the village in order to support a safer environment for our young people. If the consultation is successful, we expect work to commence early 2027.

We are also working on improving youth facilities in the village. Some initiatives are already gaining traction. Mix Music which is proving very successful, and the Connections Bus, but we want to do a lot more. We are currently reviewing our assets and how we can best provide options for our young people. This is not without its challenges and we will be looking to recruit residents with differing levels of expertise to support and assist with the initiatives. So, when the call goes out please if you have the time that you can dedicate put your name forward, successful candidates will be contacted to join the working party, a big thank you in advance. There are no quick fixes here but we on the Council have a passion to achieve a better environment for all of the community.

Now for some housekeeping. Can I ask drivers, please where you see single yellow lines with time restrictions and double yellow lines, do not park there even to nip into the shops, pick up fish and chips and drop and pick up children from the Primary School and College. We may not have regular traffic wardens to police these areas, but the lines are there for a reason. Please park courteously and not in the lined areas. We do have car parks and

unlined areas where you are allowed to park, this is a small inconvenience and adds a few moments to your journey. Please park legally, thank you all for your cooperation. Also, I would continue to encourage households to report potholes. The more complaints County Highways receive the more likelihood we will get repairs made in a more timely manner. We do get potholes repaired but we are really struggling in some areas where the holes are seriously dangerous to cars and especially bikers and cyclists. Visit www.melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk/report-an-issue/ for links to where and how you can report issues.

I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to residents who volunteer for various initiatives around the village, it is lovely to see a community spirit and your efforts help to make Melbourn a great place to live.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Clark', with a long, sweeping underline.

Graham Clark, Chair of Melbourn Parish Council.

DEMOCRACY ON YOUR DOORSTEP

What democracy means for our community - *local people having a voice*

Democracy isn't something that only happens in the chambers of Westminster - your community is supported by elected councillors that are chosen to represent the community, manage local facilities and deliver services. Melbourn Parish Council is the first tier of local government, the closest link between the community and what happens at District, County and National levels. In 2026 and every four years we all get the chance to vote, choosing the people who will represent our community and make decisions on our behalf. Your councillors don't get paid, it is a valuable voluntary role that is carried out by local people, just like you.

The Parish Council - *they fix potholes, right?*

Melbourn Parish Council is a corporate body with its members elected by the community, if spaces arise between elections members can be co-opted to join the council. Melbourn Parish Council look after many things, including but not limited to:



Maintaining green spaces, verges and play areas.



Commenting on local planning applications as a consultee.



Manage and protect areas of nature such as Stockbridge Meadows.



Supporting community projects and events such as the Food Bank.



Managing and maintaining parish assets.



Providing, managing and maintaining the cemeteries.



Provide public waste bins and arrange collection.



Providing, managing and maintaining allotments.

As your local connection to Government the parish council signpost where to report issues with things such as highways, streetlights, transport, housing and potholes! Although Melbourn Parish Council doesn't have the power to fix potholes it does represent the community by highlighting issues such as this with County and District colleagues. On their own parish councils have limited powers to make decisions but they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, other authorities that do make the decisions - mainly the District and County Council but also health authorities and the police etc. These organisations rely on the parish council reporting how a community feels about a subject, in this regard its views will be taken seriously. This is where you come in...

Democracy only works when people take part. You can be part of the democratic process by attending parish council meetings, voting in elections, engaging in consultations and sharing your thoughts on local issues.

Could you help shape your community - or know someone who could!

If you are eligible and are nominated and seconded by two eligible electors, you can stand as a candidate for election as a parish councillor. If there are more candidates than seats, then an election takes place - if there are fewer candidates than seats then all candidates are elected uncontested. As an elector in the parish, you can nominate potential candidates for election; encourage people to stand for co-option if casual vacancies are open and vote for candidates that best represent your interests.

If a seat becomes vacant on the council a Notice of Vacancy is posted to allow eligible electors to call for an election (as long as there is at least six months left until the next ordinary election of the parish council). If no election is called then the parish council can co-opt. Co-option applications are considered at a parish council meeting where councillors vote on whether to co-opt.

Am I eligible to stand?

All candidates must:

- ✓ be at least 18 years old.
- ✓ be a UK or qualifying Commonwealth citizen,
- ✓ be an elector of the parish, or (for the 12 months previous to nomination);
 - ✓ occupied land or other premises in the parish
 - or;
 - ✓ had your main
 - or;
 - ✓ lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.

Your Parish Council



Eight members of staff



15 councillor seats



Two current vacancies



Located at the heart of the village in the Community Hub



Served by dedicated County and District representatives

If you care about your community and want to serve as a voice for those around you consider standing for a seat at the next election or apply for co-option. For more details contact the Clerk on the details below or speak to one of the current councillors.

Democracy in action - *don't assume someone else will represent you, use your vote!*

Keep an eye open for summons to parish council meetings, notice of election or opportunities to get involved and think about how your voice should be heard.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Committee

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	N/A
Meeting dates to present	<p>2025: 6 May, 9 June, 9 July, 13 August, 10 September, 8 October, 12 November, 10 December</p> <p>2026: 21 January, 11 February, and 11 March, (not held at date of report)</p>
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	<p>Consider all planning applications submitted within the bounds of the Parish and larger applications close to the borders. Support or object to the applications on good planning grounds and make comments on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>In the year 2025/26, the Planning Committee considered 91 planning applications – including 29 tree works and 27 Discharge of Conditions applications for the major developments or PRIOR applications within the village. We have supported nearly all of the applications with or without comment, and submitted objections to 3 planning applications and 1 tree works. The planning committee has also considered the land transfers of open spaces in the major developments.</p> <p>There have been 66 Notifications of Decisions received from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) of which 1 differed from the MPC Planning Committee's choice. 1 application was withdrawn and 1 was overruled at appeal.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue to monitor all applications within the Parish – especially the larger applications and hold existing developments to account where Conditions are not being met.

Finance & Good Governance Committee

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	Max 7 Councillors. No members of the public.
Meeting dates to present	22 July 2025, 4 November 2025, 16 December 2025, 21 April 2026 (yet to be held)
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	<p>Reviewing Parish Council spending to ensure value for money.</p> <p>Review income streams (Cemeteries, Little Hands, match fees for football pitches, Pavilion rental and allotments).</p> <p>Reviewing the annual budget and recommending the precept to Full Council.</p> <p>Regular review of policies.</p> <p>Monitoring of the Asset Register and the Asset Management Reserve.</p> <p>Verifying all statutory information is published.</p> <p>Review effectiveness of the internal and external audits.</p> <p>Checking the quarterly VAT refund has been submitted.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue to review all activities of the PC to ensure good governance and prudent finance.

Prepared by: Abigail Williams on behalf of Cllr Muhilan Kanagarathnam, Chair Finance & Good Governance Committee.

Maintenance Committee

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	3 members of the public and MPC warden representatives.
Meeting dates to present	15 May 2025, 19 June 2025, 24 July 2025, 27 August 2025, 15 October 2025, 19 November 2025, 28 January 2026, 18 February 2026, Upcoming - 13 April 2026, 20 May 2026
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	<p>The committee continues to address routine and non-routine maintenance issues that are both planned and emergency. This includes maintaining general maintenance contracts and the servicing of LEAP (local equipment areas for play) and LAP (local areas for play) spaces.</p> <p>The operating budget was stable through the year – Wardens continue to take on maintenance projects. Tree works have been less than budgeted with future works planned for the next financial year after the completion of the biennial parish tree survey.</p> <p>The 3-year village maintenance contract was tendered and awarded in June 2024 – parcels of land are quoted and added as they are acquired by the Council.</p> <p>Plans for adopting green space and LEAP and LAP on the Hopkins estate are still being negotiated.</p> <p>Asset management projects included improving the Litte Hands building, updating bins across the village, mending benches and maintaining parish buildings.</p> <p>Stockbridge Meadows continues with the application to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Future projects include ongoing bin replacements across the village, development of memorial garden at New Road Cemetery and a parish wide review of assets.

Prepared by: Abigail Williams on behalf of Cllr Andrew Kyrianou, Chair Maintenance Committee.

HR Panel

<p>Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)</p>	<p>No members of public 5 Councillors (Max 5)</p>
<p>Meeting dates to present</p>	<p>The HR Panel meets most months and more frequently when responding to recruitment and appraisal/performance management duties.</p> <p>Both Zoom and in-person meetings continue to be used to facilitate HR Panel contact.</p> <p>All staff appraisals and performance review meetings are in-person. (The HR Panel lead on Clerk and Financial Officer reviews and a representative is present at meetings where the Clerk takes the lead). All current members of the HR Panel have taken part in these meetings.</p>
<p>Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date</p>	<p>As previously reported, both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk started their Certificate in Local Council Administration, CiLCA, training last May: we congratulate the Clerk for successfully completing this at the end of January 2026 thus ensuring MPC will continue to hold General Power of Competence following the elections in May provided at least 10 councillors are elected.</p> <p>A member of the HR Panel has monthly meetings with the Clerk to identify any concerns or areas that require support. From these meetings we are aware office space is an on-going issue and will continue to liaise with the Clerk to support future solutions.</p> <p>The HR Panel has its full complement of Councillors – many thanks to Cllr Davey for joining us and sitting in on recent appraisal meetings to get an overview of how these are conducted.</p>
<p>Any future proposals of what they are going to do</p>	<p>To continue to support the Clerk via regular meetings with a member of the panel.</p> <p>To follow guidance from the Clerk regarding policy updates.</p> <p>Following agreement at full council in February, to commence the process of recruitment for another Community Co-ordinator to focus on developing youth provision/services.</p>

Futures Working Party

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	Currently one member of the public and five councillors (Max 5).
Meeting dates to present	The Futures working party (FWP) does not have specific meeting periods or dates for meetings. However, the group does meet at least every quarter. Additional meetings will take place if warranted by specific objectives needed to be met.
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	During the last year the key focus has been to progress with the LHI application to increase security and safety measures around the primary school. The application has been successful, and we are working closely with the County Councils LHI team to progress this initiative. The next phase of the initiative is for a public consultation to take place organised by the LHI team. If this is successful, we will then move onto the full planning phase of introducing the needed safety measures around the primary school.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	The group will be looking to link up with the MAYD working party to work on specific youth initiatives in the village.

Prepared by: Cllr Graham Clark, Chair Futures Working Party.

MAYD Joint Committee

Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	No lay public – includes Parish Councillors from Shepreth, Meldreth and Melbourn, District and County Councillors from Cambridgeshire, Youth delivery contractors and Cambridge County Council Youth Services.
Meeting dates to present	20 November 2025, 5 February 2026
Overview / Report of what the Committee / WP has been doing to date	<p>The Joint Committee continues to tackle the provision of youth service options to cater for the local youth community.</p> <p>Mix Music DJ Workshop continues to provide a safe space to experiment with music and develop skills in business, marketing, arts and crafts. Providing an environment to socialise and build confidence. Workshops run on a Monday evening either from the Pavilion or a private studio. Mix Music have been able to offer other services to the community, including hosting daytime discos and providing DJ services for local volunteer groups.</p> <p>The Connections Bus continues to provide a mobile youth club (Tuesday evenings at Melbourn Village College). The service is extremely popular with young people, the new bus has provided opportunities for young people to gather, learn and have fun.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	It is planned to continue with the services above. Research is taking place into the development of youth provision in the area via extending or renovating parish buildings and by the introduction of a Youth Community Worker.

Prepared by: Abigail Williams on behalf of Cllr Andrew Kyprianou, Chair MAYD Joint Committee.



Timebank and MACS (Melbourn Action Community Support)

Prepared by: Stephanie Trayhurn, Timebank and Community Coordinator

Highlights

MACS	Food Bank moved to Pavilion and operating hours adjusted Cozy Corner has c30 visitors per week 17 lunches served per week on average Support MPS & MVC with Food bank bags, breakfast foods, snack items and Craft supplies P3 Drop-in sessions 2 nd and 4 th Thursday of every month at Food Bank MACS received HSF Grants: Community Food initiative Grant received in January to fund Slow Cooker event where 30 cookers with fresh ingredients were distributed Community Growing grant received for Community Allotment
	MACS Craft Fairs at Easter and Christmas raised over £600 Well-being Walk regularly has over 20 attendees with a team of 5 Walk leaders Community Growing Grant received Timebank took over Community Allotment
April	Aquathon team raised £400 for MACS and Home start Trusted Partner Status retained
May	Daytime Disco introduced in conjunction with Mix Music VE 80 years Tea Party held at Cozy Corner
June	Community Support for Dementia trip to Felixstowe with TB members SCDC Information event at Cozy Corner – 53 attendees
August	Big Picnic attended by over 50 people
September	Digital Champion role introduced at Cozy Corner
October	Kurling introduced at Cozy Corner Chair based Yoga introduced bi weekly at Coffee morning Coffee morning relocated to Vicarage Close
November	Vaccination event 10 th Food bank moved to The Pavilion Slow Cookers distributed to Cozy Corner visitors via ACRE
December	Christmas lunch at Hub with 49 attendees
January	Community Food Initiative Grant received in January to fund Slow Cooker event for providing 30 cookers with fresh ingredients
March	Slow Cooker event – over 30 slow cookers distributed across the community Fund raiser for Arthur Rank Hospice in memory of Sylvia Stanford Community Support for Dementia open day and workshops

On - going weekly & monthly activities

Mondays	Food Bank 9.30-11.30 and Cozy Corner 12-3 Games nights once per month	
Wednesday	Wellbeing Walk 10.30 Yoga 17.00	
Thursday	Food Bank 9.30-11.30 Coffee Morning 10-12 Cozy Corner 12-3.00	
Saturdays	Memory Cafes every month Daytime Discos	

Membership

	Apr 25	March ' 26
Individual Members	167	175
Organisation Members	18	18

Total Hours exchanged

Apr '25	March '26
24,836	31,451

MACS CRAFTS
All proceeds in aid of
Melbourn Action Community Support
Wednesday 19 November, 9.30am – 1pm, The Hub



MACS
MELBOURN ACTION COMMUNITY SUPPORT
2 1 4
Afternoon Tea with Bingo
Thursday 21 August, 1pm - 3pm, £5 per person
Vicarage Close Community Hall, Melbourn
What's On location: //striggle.ringled.craftsman
For help, donations or to volunteer please contact
Stephanie Trueman on 07421 71029 or email
Melbourn@melbournaction.org.uk



Warm Welcome Week



MACS TIMEBANK EVENTS
MACS is a Timebank group helping to deliver community events throughout the village.
WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND MELBOURN
Daytime Discos Quarterly, Vicarage Close

MONDAY
Food Bank 9.30 - 11.30am, The Pavilion
Cozy Corner 12 - 3pm, Vicarage Close
Lunch at Cozy Corner - booking essential!
Craft Group at Cozy Corner
Games Night, 7pm - once a month at The Black Horse

WEDNESDAY
Wellbeing Walk 10.30 from The Hub
Yoga 1pm Elm Way, Community Centre, Meldreth

THURSDAY
Food Bank 9.30 - 11.30am, The Pavilion
Cozy Corner (closed 4th Thursday of the month)
12 - 3pm, Vicarage Close
Craft Group / Seated Yoga / Knitting
Coffee Morning 10 - 12noon, Vicarage Close

SATURDAY
Memory Café (Community support for Dementia!)
Once a month 2 - 4pm @ Meldreth Village Hall

For help, donations or to volunteer please contact
Stephanie Trueman on 07421 71029 or email
Melbourn@melbournaction.org.uk



THANK YOU!



Celebrating our volunteers





TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON VILLAGE CHARITIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Trigg's Charity

The Trigg's Charity was set up in 1821 by John Trigg of Melbourn who left £2,000 for the establishment of a school for poor children in Melbourn, Meldreth and a six-mile radius in South Cambridgeshire. The school was held in a barn but in 1854 was superseded by an infant's school built by John Mortlock and the Trigg's Charity money was distributed in the form of prizes, Arithmetic or Woodwork for the boys and needlework for the girls.

Occasionally money was given for a scholarship to a Cambridge school. Nowadays, the money is more likely to be requested for library, classroom or playground equipment or computer accessories. Each year the charity is restricted to dispersing only the interest on our capital investment, so not huge sums.

The Trigg's Charity demands a moiety between the Melbourn and Meldreth Schools and the other schools in the area.

In 2025 the Trigg's Charity once again invited applications from seven of the nine local schools eligible for grants. The trustees awarded grants of varying amounts totalling £8,000 to all seven schools who applied to support a number of exciting projects, including contributions towards inspirational speakers, live orchestra performances, sensory garden seating, a music and dance workshop, enhancing an outdoor play area and school trips.

The charity will be reaching out to the schools again this year to invite applications and hopes for a similar high response rate and existing range of grant funded activities that the charity can at least in part help facilitate.

Phil Stewart, Treasurer and Secretary

Martins Charity

The opening balance on 1st April 2017 - £21.55

The closing balance on 31st March 2018 - £21.55

The Clerk, 1 March 2026

Francis John Clear Almshouses

Annual Summary to Melbourn Parish Council 2025

This is my Annual Summary no. FIFTY from FJCA Charity.

Happily this is a short account - in 2025/6 our damp difficulty at no.55 was finally put away - at a cost and with much hard work! Our happy inhabitants flourish in first class accommodation and I would say things jog along amiably.

Our financial affairs stay in good condition and many trustworthy artisans maintain our building. Our Chairwoman has a tight grip on all transactions and all discussion is harmonious. All is good and flourishing.

I am happy to submit my account of our situation at FJC Charity.

Mavis Howard



Desperate to keep my mind alert as I approach 92 I have typed my report using a little ruse - I wonder if you can see what I have done?

Mavis

Turn to page 38 to find out...

Melbourn & District Warden Scheme

Supporting the elderly and mobility impaired to remain independent in their home.

The scheme has some 64 clients and offers its services in the villages of Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth, Whaddon, Barrington, Harston, Hauxton and Grantchester, Foxton, Fowlmere and Orwell.

To cover these villages, the scheme has 8 wardens.

Services offered, include regular visits, daily phone calls, monitoring of health and safety, as well as providing practical errands, emotional support, and signposting to other services. The clients receive a regular internal scheme magazine that is produced by the team to connect clients, share stories, news and provide advice, fun quizzes and word searches.

At Christmas, we took the MDWS clients for a Christmas lunch outing at Melbourn Hub, as you can imagine it was no mean feat transporting and supporting so many mobility impaired clients. The clients loved the event, and the staff at Melbourn Hub did us proud.

The clients really enjoy these social occasions, and other outings are planned for the summer.

Satisfaction with our service is still high. Data collected regularly by MDWS, evidences the strong community and financial value add of our scheme. This is also due to the continued support by PC's and the trustees wish to extend their gratitude to all Cllrs.

Cllrs are aware of the local government reorganisation that's taking place in 2028. MDWS trustees are concerned and wary of how the funding they currently receive from SCDC (previously reported last year) will continue for the remainder of the 10 year projected funding plan. This funding is programmed to reduce by 10% annually, whilst scheme client fees rise accordingly. The plan was that by Yr10 the SCDC funding will stop, and all schemes will be self-funding. This may be in jeopardy now. As a trustee board we will inform all participating Parish Councils when we hear what plans and funding measures are put in place, nearer 2028.

In readiness, the MDWS board will continue to increase client fees as programmed, working towards self-reliance as planned.

We hope that this future plan meets with council approval. Thank you.

Jose Hales, Scheme Secretary

Melbourn Community Hub

2025/26 has been an interesting and exciting year - but also challenging. The services that The Hub continues to develop, often in partnership, offer an array of positive community benefits.

Alongside our core café, library and room hire services, more health and wellbeing services continue to evolve. An increased focus this year has been women's health services, including the introduction of cervical screening. The Hub also became the home for local podiatry and osteopathy. Cambridge Building Society now have regular space at Melbourn Hub, enabling the retention of this popular financial service within the village.

The extensive list of services that the Hub has provided - or continues to provide - was shared at the January 2026 Parish Council meeting and can be viewed via the Parish Council website.

1. People

Our annual customer survey continues to tell us that customers rate our services as excellent or good. Our 2025 survey shows 100% would recommend the Hub to others.

We have continued to provide local employment for 17 staff during this reporting year and volunteering opportunities for around 40 people.

The Management Group welcomed a new director in late 2025 and we now have 9 directors, all of whom offer their time and skills voluntarily.

2. Financial

The Hub's income relies primarily on that from the café; room hire and the Parish Council's license to occupy fee. The Hub has not escaped the challenges that the hospitality sector continues to face, with ongoing increases to the minimum wage and NI, plus high food and drink costs and other ad hoc expense.

Balancing affordability for the community (to remain inclusive) against rising costs, has required careful management.

The Hub has again not requested any grant funding for this flagship community asset from The Parish Council during this reporting year, despite these challenges.

The great social benefit of Health at The Hub (HATH) has been evidenced from analysis undertaken by accredited social value specialists. In 2024 HATH had delivered "a very high level of social value" and the benefit cost ratio is rated 'high' by the 'Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government'.

3. Operations

The current café chairs need replacing to ensure customer safety and comfort and these have now been ordered. This is within general maintenance costs for the Parish Council.

During 2025, The Hub was required for compliance reasons to have a fat trap installed in the café kitchen - adding significant cost for the Hub Management Group.

The cafe remains popular, seeing many busy days and the room hire position is currently positive, with existing and new long-term room hire arrangements for health, outreach and other local services, indicating excellent room hire growth for 2026.

Events at The Hub in the last year, includes Concerts, Craft Fairs and our big free seasonal event 'Turn on to Christmas'. We have delivered a fun family Halloween trail as well as the library delivering free films for children and Story time for the under 5s.

4. Looking Forward

The Hub is planning more public events and looks forward to a general Spring refresh of the café space helped by the introduction of the new café chairs.

The Parish Council, following a growth in staff numbers, seek larger office space and are exploring solutions with us. If no suitable solution can be found within The Hub, this will require further discussion between parties to understand what effect this may have upon the current Hub income stream model.

The Parish Council engaged a solicitor to interpret the Hub lease, to help the Parish Council to better understand their role and responsibilities. The Hub Management Group are satisfied that the recent interpretation continues to match their own and original understanding of the lease, supporting the ongoing good relationship between parties.

Melbourn Community Hub Management Group

Melbourn & Meldreth Lunch Club

Melbourn Hub provides a weekly lunch club every Tuesday for older residents, quite a few of whom are mobility impaired and clients of Melbourn & District Mobile Warden Scheme.

Lunch club is incredibly important, as it enables those with limited opportunities, to socialise, to come together, meet new people, chat and enjoy a delicious cooked meal. The Lunch Club offers a subsidised two course hot lunch with, juice, and tea and coffee. Seven of those currently attending benefit from transport to the Hub, provided by kind volunteers who offer to drive them to The Hub, without which they would be unable to attend.

Membership is currently around 14, but we can comfortably fit 18, so we are trying to reach out to new participants, who may wish to join.

The members look forward to their lunch each week, they also particularly enjoy having a chat with other lunch club members and staff. For some, this may be the only chance they have to socialise all week. Our Members are often complimenting us on not only the food but also the whole enjoyable experience of coming together to socialise with lunch club friends.

It is with grateful thanks to Melbourn Parish Council for their financial contribution which helps towards keeping the meals at an affordable price for the members.

Gemma Dowling, Melbourn Hub Manager

Melbourn Action Community Support (MACS)

MACS is part of Melbourn Timebank and supported by Melbourn Parish Council.

The Food bank opens on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30 - 11.30 at the Pavilion (what 3 words location ///swing.that.putts) on a 'no referral, no voucher basis and provides help with food to members of our community.

Cozy Corner opens on Mondays and Thursdays from 12-3 (except 4th Thursday of the month) in Vicarage Close Communal Room (what 3 words location /// wriggle.irrigated.craftsman) providing a safe, warm welcome. A place of connection and belonging where you can enjoy free refreshments, play games, join the craft group or just sit and chat.

MACS has a fabulous and committed team of volunteers and is also supported by many kind members of our community; individuals and businesses alike who donate food and money to make this all happen even in these hard times. Each and every donation is truly appreciated.

Look out for the Melbourn Timebank events calendar that details all activities, such as our Games Night, Day Time Disco and more! Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or to get involved.

Stephanie Trayhurn, Melbourn Timebank and Community Coordinator

MACS TIMEBANK EVENTS

MACS is a Timebank group helping to deliver community events throughout the village.

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND MELBOURN...

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Food Bank 9.30 - 11.30am, The Pavilion.

Cozy Corner 12 - 3pm, Vicarage Close.

Lunch at Cozy Corner - booking essential!

Craft Group at Cozy Corner

Games Night, 7pm - once a month at The Black Horse

WEDNESDAY

Wellbeing Walk 10.30 from The Hub

Yoga 5pm Elin Way, Community Centre, Meldreth

THURSDAY

Food Bank 9.30 - 11.30am, The Pavilion.

Cozy Corner (closed 4th Thursday of the month)

12 - 3pm, Vicarage Close.

Craft Group | Seated Yoga | Kurling

Coffee Morning 10 - 12noon, Vicarage Close

SATURDAY

Memory Café (Community support for Dementia)

Once a month 2 - 4pm @ Meldreth Village Hall

For help, donations or to volunteer please contact
Stephanie Trayhurn on 07483 176929 or email
timebank@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cam Valley Community Rail Partnership



2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council



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Introduction by the Chair

Susan van de Ven

We are delighted to present a picture of our evolving Community Rail Partnership, now the 'Cam Valley CRP', which has grown from three village stations to a network of five – Meldreth, Shepreth, Foxton, Shelford and Whittlesford Parkway – plus the new Cambridge South Station. Set to open in June, Cambridge South brings enormous potential to connect individuals to education, employment and public services in new ways.

Our report demonstrates, through action, our core purpose: building on a foundation of community development, social responsibility and an eye on the horizon.

Our bread-and-butter work has continued throughout the year, including rail safety education with Foxton Primary School, and the Travelling Garden hosted at Shepreth Station. The Meldreth Link path between Meldreth Station and Melbourn has been a hub of activity, with people and groups of all ages creating spectacular displays of wildflowers and spring bulbs along the verges. This complements the remarkable work of our station gardeners. Our thanks go to all involved.

We continue to support improvements to local infrastructure, including work to optimise level crossing operations where they intersect with busy roads.

In Whittlesford, Shelford and Cambridge South, we have forged new relationships with train operating companies, parish councils, gardening and scout groups and local businesses, including the Cambridge Biomedical Campus partnership. We're also delighted to welcome a new director to our governing Community Interest Company, who brings fresh perspective and new local connections.

This is a time of change for rail services, with nationalisation and Great British Rail on the way, as well significant shifts in Local Government and Local Transport planning, through forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation. We aim to move with these changes while maintaining strong and growing roots in our communities.



CIC Directors Peter Sutton, Brian Clarkstone and Richard Williams with Project Officer Sarah Grove and Chair Susan van de Ven

Cam Valley CRP

About us

Our Community Rail Partnership is committed to community development, working closely with schools, groups and businesses associated with our local rail services, and improving sustainable transport links for the benefit of the wider area.

The partnership is accredited by the Department for Transport. Accreditation is formal recognition by the DfT that a Community Rail Partnership operates to a high standard and that its objectives and activities are supported by Government.

The partnership would like to thank all our station volunteers, members of the Stakeholder Group and Sarah Hatcher for recording the minutes of meetings.

Our partners



Melbourn Parish Council
Meldreth Parish Council
Shepreth Parish Council
Foxton Parish Council
Great Shelford Parish Council
Whittlesford Parish Council

Melbourn Village College
Melbourn Timebank
Foxton Gardens Association
Meldreth Veg Club
Philimore Garden Centre
Melbourn Practical Solutions Group



Providing a Voice for the Community

Championing local concerns and ensuring community perspectives are heard in major rail and infrastructure discussions

We engaged closely with local residents and parish councils on issues surrounding the upgrade of the Meldreth Road Level Crossing. We facilitated a visit of local representatives to both the Foxton Signal Box and the Cambridge Power Box so that councillors could learn about the operation of our three local crossings both individually and as part of the network. We have been representing community interests during the development and preparation for opening of Cambridge South, with a focus on onward travel and connections into the Biomedical Campus and beyond. In parallel, we have continued our dialogue with East West Rail, advocating for clarity, early engagement, and the protection of local needs as the project progresses and for the facilities provided to rail travellers to be of the highest quality. Across all three areas, the CRP has worked to ensure that the perspectives of South Cambridgeshire's communities remain central to decisions that shape their rail network and the places they live.



Promoting Sustainable & Healthy Travel

Encouraging environmentally responsible and confident travel through education, creativity, and community outreach.



Working closely with Foxton Primary School, we delivered engaging rail-safety sessions and curriculum led rail trips, helping pupils build the skills they need to use public transport independently and safely. These sessions supported both sustainable travel habits and wider life skills, ensuring that young people see the railway as a safe, accessible, and positive option for everyday journeys.

We also brought sustainable travel to life through hands-on, place-based projects. At Shepreth station, in partnership with Sustainable Shepreth, the CRP hosted the Travelling Garden, offering an interactive way for passengers and local families to explore themes of biodiversity, wellbeing, and greener journeys. Meanwhile, our promotion of the Cam Valley on the Railway 200 Inspiration Train, supported by resources funded by the CRDF helped spotlight rail-accessible days out and active travel links across the region.



Through these initiatives, we encouraged residents and visitors alike to choose rail for leisure, connect with local landscapes, and experience the health and environmental benefits of sustainable travel.

Bringing Communities Together

Supporting diversity & inclusion

Our achievements this year were made possible by the incredible dedication and community spirit of our volunteers.



We are so proud of our work on the Meldreth Link Path this year. Our activities began in April (top left) when the Melbourn Guides and volunteers from Meldreth and Melbourn helped to prepare the ground and sow wildflower seeds, funded by a Community Chest grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council. The wildflowers produced a beautiful display shortly after (top middle). In July, we celebrated the official opening of the path with the Greater Cambridge Partnership and our colleagues from GTR (top right).

In October, to raise awareness of MIND, the GTR Corporate Charity, we led one of the Melbourn Timebank Well-being Walks to view the wildflowers (bottom right) which continued to delight well into November (bottom middle). In December we held a Community Bulb Planting event, supported by local volunteers. We were very grateful for the bulbs donated by local residents (bottom left) and the generous discount offered to us by Philimores Garden Centre to purchase even more.

We are pleased to have provided these volunteering opportunities and to continue supporting the improvement of this vital link between Melbourn and Meldreth Railway Station. Our amazing volunteers this year have also included our stalwart station gardeners and adopters at all our stations as well as our Duke of Edinburgh watering volunteers, with a special shout out to the staff of Corteva on the Melbourn Science Park who came for two days of litter picking and scrub clearing at Meldreth.

Supporting Social & Economic Development

Supporting local attractions and businesses through celebrating and promoting all the Cam Valley has to offer



The expansion of the CRP has enabled us to rebrand with a geographical focus on the Cam Valley and its distinctive features - chalk streams, thatched cottages, country pubs and easy cycling and walking routes. A grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund has supported the development of an updated website showcasing the region, along with new walking and cycling route maps and welcome boards to be installed at all six stations. Promoting the region locally and nationally will encourage visitors to expand their horizons beyond Cambridge City, helping to support local attractions and businesses.

Our new activity booklet for children includes a range of fun puzzles and games to keep younger travellers engaged during rail journeys, while also featuring a rail safety checklist and information about our vital local chalk stream habitats. The children illustrated in the booklet are named after our local rivers and tributaries: Rhee, Mel, Shep and Cam.

Strengthening the Partnership

Deepening our connections across the region through shared events, national campaigns, and active involvement in the wider Community Rail movement

This year has seen us collaborating with our CRP colleagues across the Eastern Region and beyond. After attending the Railway 200 Inspiration Train in Lowestoft, we were delighted to be invited by Greater Anglia to join the train again in Cambridge in January, sharing the experience with our colleagues from Hereward and Ipswich to Cambridge CRPs. One highlight of the year was helping on the Hereward Santa train between Ely and Peterborough - an elf's work is never done!

Another highlight was working with our Thameslink colleagues on the Chorus for Change event, bringing together a flash mob of singers from across the network to London King's Cross to celebrate the positive impact of music on mental health.



We were delighted to attend a parliamentary reception hosted by the Community Rail Network (CRN) to raise the profile of the Community Rail movement. Our MP for South Cambridgeshire, Pippa Heylings, visited the event and was presented with our annual report and line guide.

We have taken an active part in CRN forums throughout the year, including Education, Tourism and Integrated Transport. We were pleased to discover last year's Safety of Women and Girls event had inspired other community rail colleagues to hold their own. We have also participated in CRN campaigns including Community Rail Week and Days out by Rail, and have updated our website with new pages to match the themes such as "Rails to Reels" showcasing TV and film locations accessible from our stations.

Community Rail Awards

We were delighted that our photographic entry “How do you like the new banner?” was shortlisted for the Community Rail Awards this year. Our thanks go to South Cambridgeshire District Council for supporting the design and production of the new banner, to Community Rail Norfolk for hosting us for the day in Lowestoft, and to Ben Walsh for being such a good sport and having his photo taken.



Financial Statement

The Cam Valley CRP is extremely grateful for the continued funding support from Govia Thameslink Railway and South Cambridgeshire District Council. Funding from Greater Anglia, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge City Council has allowed the Partnership Officer to increase hours to cover new stations and new projects. We are also thankful for the continued support of our Parish Councils in Meldreth, Melbourn, Shepreth and Foxton, and to the directors of the Meldreth, Melbourn, Shepreth and Foxton Community Interest Company who provide financial governance.

Accounts for 2025-26

Income

Core Funding

Grants

Brought forward from 2024-25

Total Income

Payments

Partnership Officer

Operational Expenses

Projects

Accounting

Total Payments

Balance at 31st March 2026

**Accounts not available
at time of publishing.**



CAM VALLEY
Community Rail Partnership

Contact Us



Email	sarah.grove@scambbs.gov.uk	↑
Website	camvalleycrp.org.uk	↑
Facebook	CamValleyCRP	↑
Instagram	camvalleycrp	↑



Community Allotment

We are pleased to report that our first full year on the communal allotment has been a reasonable success. Weather conditions were mixed – kind at times and challenging at others. The dry spring helped reduce the slug population but also led to poor flower setting on the runner beans, resulting in a disappointing crop. Despite the storms later in the year, our small polytunnel remained intact, while several others on the site were less fortunate.

We greatly appreciated the generous council grant, which enabled us to reinforce the existing raised beds, create several new ones, and purchase seeds, equipment, and compost while we work towards producing our own. The supply of bark chippings and soil improver was also very welcome and proved beneficial to many allotment holders across the site.

This year has been a learning curve for us, particularly through experimenting with companion planting and the increasingly popular no-dig approach, which has required noticeably less effort and energy.

During the main growing season, we were able to supply the Food Bank on a bi-weekly basis with a wide range of produce, including lettuce, cabbage, carrots, courgettes, French beans, broad beans, tomatoes, onions, and potatoes. Fruit harvests included rhubarb, gooseberries, and apples. The strawberry bed was somewhat disappointing; however, we remain hopeful for the second year. Should it fail again, the area will be reassigned to potatoes. While there were a few additional setbacks, these have provided valuable lessons for future planning.

Throughout the dry summer months, the on-site water supply proved invaluable, and we refilled the water butts on several occasions. Recent work to the boundary hedge has improved access to the plot and increased light levels, both of which have had a positive impact.

Overall, it has been rewarding to establish a presence over the past twelve months, to meet and learn from other plot holders, and to share some of our knowledge with new members of the allotment association.

Jenny Thame, Community Allotment Holder

**i**

Mavis set you a little challenge in her report - did you work it out?

A concise report written as a lipogram - completely omitting the letter 'e'!

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2025 – 2026 AND HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

Balance brought forward from 2024/25	£456.67
Awarded for distribution 2025/26	£57,563.66
Available for distribution 2026/26	£58,020.33

Community Benefit Grants applications awarded 2 June 2025

Melbourn Library	£200.00
Melbourn Hub Lunch Club	£3,500.00
St Georges Allotment	£1,487.31
Melbourn Dynamos Football Club	£7,734.00
Community Support for Dementia	£5,798.00
Melbourn Fete Committee	£3,000.00
All Saints Church	£3,655.00
Melbourn District Warden Scheme	£3,000.00
Melbourn Primary School PTFA	£6,003.99
1st Orwell Scouts	£3,475.12
Total awarded June 2025:	£37,853.42

Available for distribution December 2025: **£20,0166.91**

Community Benefit Grants applications awarded 3 December 2025

Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire	£4,247.82
Melbourn Baptist Church	£2,153.99
Melbourn Squash Club (awarded 75% of requested)	£975.00
Mix Music (awarded 80% of requested)	£6,560.00
Turn on to Christmas	£1,280.00
Total awarded December 2025:	£15,216.81
<i>Balance to carry forward:</i>	<i>£4,950.10</i>

Melbourn Library

Some of the items purchased with the Melbourn Parish Council grant:

£80	on general book stock (not from s.106 funds)
£58	on children's story time books
£20	on a puppet for children's story time
£28.50	on musical instruments for children's story time
£26	on book stands to display new books
£10	on children's DVDs for showing at the library
£25	on board books for World Book Day which have been and will be distributed to new mums and mums to be

Janet Backer, Treasurer

St Georges Allotment

The St George's Allotment Association applied for and received a Melbourn Parish Council Community Grant in June 2025 to cover the hire cost of two 8-yard general waste skips (one for early summer and one for autumn), to purchase soil improver for use on the allotments and to purchase security locks and chains to improve site security. The grant received (£1487.31) was comprised of £720.00 for hire of two skips, £514.80 for purchase and delivery of ~10 tonnes of soil improver and £252.51 for three security locks and chains. Both skips were hired and the soil improver was delivered during the year. One lock and chain has been purchased so far and the remaining will be purchased once new security gates have been installed later this year.

Soil Improver

The known benefits of using soil improver as a mulch include improved soil structure, increased moisture retention, good weed suppression and better crop growth. The improved soil fertility will also benefit future plot holders as well as the current ones. The delivery of a lorry load of soil improver from Envar in Somersham, near Huntingdon, was arranged with Melbourn based A J Grab Hire Ltd, and on the 9th October 2025 they duly delivered ~10 tonnes of lovely black gold, see photo below. The soil improver was available to all plot holders and within a few weeks had been wheel-barrowed to individual plots by the holders. The soil improver is generated from waste food and vegetation collected from households around the county and composted under ideal conditions by Envar.

Waste Clearance Skip Hire

Two 8-yard general waste skips were hired from the Mick George Group and delivered to the allotments on 1st July and 24th October 2025. Plot holders rapidly filled both skips by clearing non-compostable assorted rubbish from their plots, such as broken wire fencing, rusted metal, broken glass, waste plastic, etc., see photo.

This project is beneficial to all of the St Georges Allotment community and resulted in many tidier allotments. Having less rubbish on their allotments not only benefited the current plot holders but also provides legacy value to future tenants. It also benefited the local environment by removing environmentally harmful materials such as plastic and provides safer conditions for plot holders to tend their plots. It complements the ongoing work by the council to reduce the amount of asbestos cement fragments on the allotments.

Conclusion

The hire of two skips and the purchase and delivery of soil improver have been completed; and the remaining security equipment will be purchased shortly.

St Georges Allotment Association



Melbourn Dynamos Football Club



Report on 2025 MPC Grant Spend – Melbourn Dynamos Football Club

Melbourn Dynamos Football Club gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a grant of **£7,734** from Melbourn Parish Council. This funding has provided **vital** support to the Club during a period of continued growth, enabling investment in volunteer development, player welfare, inclusive coaching, and essential infrastructure. This report outlines how the grant has been allocated and the impact achieved.

Details of Expenditure and Utilisation

1. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training for Volunteers

The grant funded MHFA training for eight Club volunteers.

- These volunteers joined through the formation of new teams and represent an important extension of our safeguarding and welfare network.
- The training equips volunteers to recognise, respond to, and support mental health challenges affecting players, parents, and fellow volunteers.
- This investment continues the Club's long-term commitment to embedding mental health awareness and early intervention within grassroots sport.

2. Final Phase of Club-Wide Kit Renewal

The grant supported the final stage of our two-year kit renewal programme.

- Updated kits have now been rolled out across remaining teams.
- This has improved equality of provision, reduced reliance on ageing or mismatched kit, and strengthened Club identity.
- Players, particularly younger members, have expressed increased pride and belonging associated with representing the Club in new kit.

3. Starter Equipment

Funding enabled the purchase of one FA trial equipment set.

- This includes smaller-format goals and age-appropriate training equipment.
- The equipment begins to support more player-centred training models aligned with the FA's FutureFit framework, due to become nationally mandated in coming years.
- Early adoption allows the Club to trial formats that particularly benefit younger players and neurodiverse children, promoting greater engagement, more touches on the ball, and improved confidence.
- We are extremely grateful to the council for this.

4. Neurodiversity Training for Volunteers

The grant funded two places on a specialist course in understanding neurodiversity in grassroots football.

- Volunteers gained practical strategies for supporting players with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and related conditions.
- The training has influenced session planning, communication approaches, and behavioural support techniques.

- This investment directly strengthens our inclusive capability and supports broader community wellbeing priorities.

5. GDPR Compliance and Club Administration Infrastructure

The grant provided partial support for GDPR-compliant administration systems.

- Funding offset subscription costs associated with LoveAdmin.
- This supports secure management of player registrations, safeguarding records, volunteer data, and communications.
- As a volunteer-led organisation now serving over 350 players and 80+ volunteers, robust data protection processes are essential to governance, safeguarding, and operational resilience.

Impact on the Club and Community

The Parish Council's support has delivered measurable benefits:

- **Enhanced Player Welfare** – Expanded MHFA coverage improves early recognition and support for mental health concerns.
- **Greater Inclusivity** – Neurodiversity training and age-appropriate equipment support children who may otherwise struggle in traditional formats.
- **Equality and Belonging** – Club-wide kit renewal promotes fairness, identity, and morale across teams.
- **Stronger Governance** – GDPR-compliant systems protect members and reduce organisational risk.

Beneficiaries:

Over 350 players, 80+ volunteers, and the wider Melbourn community have benefited either directly or indirectly from these initiatives.

Acknowledgements

Melbourn Dynamos Football Club extends sincere thanks to **Melbourn Parish Council** for its continued investment in grassroots sport, community wellbeing, and inclusive participation.

This grant has supported not only equipment and training, but the development of a safer, more inclusive, and more resilient Club environment.

We value the Parish Council's partnership and look forward to continuing to serve the Melbourn community.

Melbourn Dynamos Football Club

Ian Henderson
Club Treasurer
February 2026

Community Support for Dementia

What happened in 2025...

The need for the support in our local community for those 'living with dementia' and family members supporting them is growing at an alarming rate.

During 2025 we held twelve Memory Cafes offering social stimulation, in a safe and inclusive environment. The maximum number of people attending a Memory Café was 60. With at least 45-50 attending every time. We continue to see new people and sadly have lost members along the way to this progressive disease.

We also introduced Dementia Sing-Alongs, on the second Friday of each month. These have proved be very successful and continue to attract newcomers. 12 Sessions were held in 2025.

The Daily Sparkle membership, has an amazing app, giving us constant resources for our Memory Cafes and Sing-Alongs. The Daily Sparkle Newspapers give hours of entertainment at home for those 'living with dementia'. It has an array of crosswords, wordsearches, quizzes and puzzles. These are very popular and are constantly being requested by family members.

We had our annual trip to The Hut in Felixstowe. A fantastic resource run by a charity available to groups such as ours. This trip is always popular and is often the last time that people will get to see the sea and have fish and chips served in newspaper, finished off with ice cream and a cup of tea!

We held two Dementia Workshops, giving those supporting an individual 'living with dementia' greater understanding of the condition and learn skills to aid communication and interactions.

We purchased new equipment, for sensory and visual stimulation. Animatronic animals, musical instruments, fidget blankets, games, books, frame bags. In addition to this, we have many volunteers and family members who are constantly making sensory blankets and mitts.

Support was given to carers who were really struggling to cope by dementia specialist Chris Elsley.

We very much thank Melbourn Parish Council for the financial support given, which was a tremendous help, and enabled us to deliver this support to our community.

Davina Biswell, Stephanie Trayhurn

Melbourn Fete Committee

The Melbourn Fete Committee received a grant from the MPC Community Grant Fund of £3,000 to underwrite the staging of Melbourn Fete in June 2025. The funds were requested to cover the unavoidable costs which would have been written off if the event were cancelled.

The grant was spent as follows:

Item	Expenditure
PA System	£1,200.00
Insurance	£462.00
Fee for inflatables	£2,000.00
Total	£3,662.00

The additional expenditure was taken from the Melbourn Fete Committee funds.

Melbourn Fete Committee is grateful for the continued support from Melbourn Parish Council. MPC's commitment enables us to stage important events for the community such as the Fete, Turn on to Christmas and Open Gardens each year. Money raised from the 2025 Fete was donated to fifteen local causes.

C M Carter, Treasurer

All Saints Church

Community Benefit Grant of £3,655.00 awarded by Melbourn Parish Council to All Saints Parochial Church Council in June 2025.

The Parish Council kindly provided a Community Benefit grant to Melbourn Parochial Church Council to help towards the costs of removal of pews and existing flooring at the rear of the church, to enable the development of a flexible space.

The work to develop the space was started last summer, including removing the pews and the flooring beneath, as set out in our application. The grant has also helped us raise a further £24,000 from other trusts (with hopefully more to follow - we have more applications under consideration).

The aim was to then remove the remainder of the flooring before installing a new stone floor, as the first phase of the overall development. However, removing the pews revealed a brick chamber and a large diameter pipe leading to it from the tower. This must predate the pews, installed in 1854. While this has delayed the project, it has revealed a hitherto unknown element of the church's history.

We think it may be part of a Georgian or early Victorian heating system, but have been required by the Diocese of Ely to pause the work while an archaeological investigation is undertaken.



The archaeologist visited in January and we are awaiting the report. Once received, we hope to complete the flooring, which will enable us to use the space for community events as planned.

We will then fundraise for the second phase of the project, new kitchenette and disabled toilet.

We are happy to provide a further update later in the year.

David Jennings, On behalf of All Saints PCC

Melbourn Primary School PTFA

The grant provided by the Parish Council in 2025 was used to cover the cost of the Primary School's PTFA annual fireworks display to keep the ticket price low for the community to attend and to purchase a completion arch for our fun run which we introduced in 2025 for the first time.

The total amount of the grant was £6003.99, which was used as follows:

We used some of the grant to fund the fireworks display at the annual fireworks event held at Melbourn Primary School. It was a hugely successful night and was a sold-out event with 1,300 tickets sold to school families and the wider community. The £3,950 grant covered the cost of the professional fireworks display, which was provided by the professional company, Skyburst. This allowed for the profits made from ticket sales and other sales on the night from the bar, BBQ and stalls to be used for the PTFA's fundraising priorities. This year profits are being put towards funding for updated IT equipment and a new PA system for the school hall with individual microphones for the children to use when they do class assemblies and productions, as well as contributions towards school trips to the theatre, books for the children and easter eggs.

The remaining of the grant has been used to purchase a fun run arch which will be fantastic to have when we run the event this year! Last year was our first event and gave such fun to all the community having a 2k and 5k run for everyone to enjoy. Last year we raised a massive £4345, this year we are hoping to achieve the same if not more but bringing the community together.

On behalf of the Melbourn Primary School PTFA, we would like to thank the Parish Council for their support in awarding this grant and enabling this popular volunteer-run community event to be as successful as it was.

Lauren Nash & Lucy Drage, Melbourn PTFA Co-Chairs

1st Orwell Scouts

Item	Volume	Cost
Vango Sierra 500 Tents	4	£ 410.00
14cm Zebra Loop Handle Cooking Pot	5	£ 145.00
16cm Zebra Loop Handle Cooking Pot	4	£ 131.96
Kitchen Knife Set - Colour coded knives and sheaths	5	£ 64.95
Plastic Chopping Board Sets with food icons	5	£ 49.95
Trangia 25-2 Stove with Pans and Kettle & Gas Burner	8	£ 839.60
Total		£ 1641.46

Tents

4 Vango Sierra 500 5 person tents. These replaced older and now worn-out tents used for Group and District camps. This new Vango tent model is much more robust and 'Scout Proof' than our previous 5 person tents.



Cooking Equipment

The Scouts love cooking both on camp and at Scout meetings. We maintain 5 Patrol Cooking Boxes with all the equipment and utensils for a patrol to be able to cook. These boxes have been in use for over 8 years and required some replacement equipment. We have purchased new knives, chopping boards and two sizes of cooking pots suitable for gas burners.



Expedition Equipment

Scouts must plan and undertake an expedition for their Gold Scout Award, this requires them to carry any food and equipment they need for the hike and camping overnight. We have purchased 8 Trangia Stoves, these are lightweight versatile cooking stoves that are

recommended for Scout and DofE expeditions. We have previously been borrowing from other Scout groups Trangias, so it is great for the group to have our own for future expeditions.



Event Shelter

For use at events and camps, the group has been borrowing or using leaders personal pop-up shelters. Really useful for the group to be able to easily set up for events and keep dry / shaded. It even comes in Scout Purple!



Gareth Bolitho, Group Chairman

Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire

We are so grateful for your funding in December 2025, which enabled us to start to provide crucial home-visiting support to three vulnerable Melbourn families. Two families were referred to Home-Start by their Health Visitor and the other family was referred by a Family Support Worker from Intensive Families First Team.

The families' **diverse issues** included:

- Poor parental mental health including anxiety and depression
- Post-natal depression
- Domestic abuse
- Managing difficult parental relationships
- Finding individual time for each child challenging
- Financial difficulties
- Child's physical development requiring ongoing monitoring/treatment
- Lack of local family support
- Isolated
- New to the area with no peer support network in place
- No time to complete household tasks or make calls
- No time to complete paperwork/forms
- Baby with reflux
- Mother unable to put baby down to get on with any tasks at home

Two of the three families have been classed as having complex needs and two have also been managing neurodivergence within the family.

How these families are being supported:

The Community Benefit Grant has enabled our highly-trained volunteers to begin meeting with the families for 2-3 hours every week, providing bespoke practical and emotional support, which is non-judgemental, confidential and free. This included:

- Providing a listening ear and emotional support
- Giving reassurance and positive feedback
- Developing a relationship with mother and baby so volunteer is able to hold baby while mother gets on with tasks, such as feeding herself, making bottles
- Helping to feed and bathe the babies
- Engaging with the children to give mother time to make calls, liaise with housing around concerns about damp in home
- Enabling parent to have 1-1 time with each child by spending time with each child individually
- Signposting for more specialist support where appropriate
- Signposting to foodbank
- Support to buy and prepare low-cost recipes

The **positive changes** we have begun to see and hope to see as support continues include:

- Improved mental health for mother
- Mother feeling less stressed about someone else holding baby
- Mother feeling more able to get household tasks completed
- Parent able to prepare low-cost recipes and access foodbanks when necessary
- Housing appointment to come out to review damp in home
- Mother has more time for each child and feels less guilty

Amanda Hourmand, on behalf of Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire

Melbourn Baptist Church

Melbourn Baptist Church were very pleased to be successful in receiving a Community Benefit Grant of £2153.99 in December 2025. This is to be used for the purchase of a defibrillator and external cabinet. At the point of writing, the equipment is currently ordered and we are awaiting delivery. Once with us, the defibrillator will be installed as soon as possible on the outside front wall of the church building.

The defibrillator will be registered on "The Circuit" (the National Defibrillator Network), and will be maintained by the church. It's location on the front wall of the church will make it accessible to anyone in the community who may need it, and we hope that this will provide a welcome addition to other defibrillators already available in the village. We are grateful to the Parish Council for supporting us with this.

Janet Cottenden, on behalf of Melbourn Baptist Church

Melbourn Village College Squash Club

The grant will contribute to annual costs of c. £1200 to retain the services of a professional coach to deliver mid-week sessions for junior players. The money will be spent evenly across the course of the year.

Matthew Walker, Vice-Chair

Mix Music



MIX MUSIC





WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

We have continued to run our regular Monday night sessions, which are still going strong. Although we have lost a couple of attendees this year, we have potentially gained a new starter, which is encouraging.

We are also currently looking at introducing sessions for younger children, with half-hour sessions planned for one term as an initial trial.

Over the past year, we have provided a range of exciting opportunities for the young people involved. Last year, we organised an outing to the We DJ Expo in London, which was an amazing experience. One of our DJs got to perform at Kool FM.

In December, we took the group ice skating in Cambridge for our Christmas outing, which was a great success.

In addition, we delivered three Day Discos for MACS, and we are planning to do the same again this year.



We have many ideas for the future of the project. We had planned to organise a music event following the village fete in June. However, due to a particularly busy start to the year for us personally, and as the project is currently run by just the two of us, we have decided to postpone this until summer 2027. This will allow us to dedicate the time, effort and funding required to organise the event properly and to work more closely with the fete organisers from an earlier stage.

We both give our time on a voluntary basis and are very happy to do so. We are coming into our 4th year of running the sessions and supporting young people in the village.

The start of this year has been a little slower than usual, with many of our regular attendees currently focusing on their GCSE studies. We also tend to find that attendance naturally slows during the winter months, although participation consistently increases again as the year progresses.





Looking ahead, we remain very hopeful that the youth community organiser may become available to help strengthen and expand youth provision in the village and support us with what we need in order to gain access in the schools. In the meantime, we will continue to run our sessions and provide this positive opportunity for young people in the community.

Turn on to Christmas

The Melbourn Fete Committee received a grant from the MPC Community Grant Fund of £1,280 to underwrite the staging of Turn on to Christmas 2025. The funds were requested to cover the unavoidable costs which would have been written off if the event were cancelled.

The grant was spent as follows:

Item	Expenditure
Attractions	£710.00
Lights	£263.78
Christmas Trees (outstanding liability)	£485.00
Total	£1,458.78

The additional expenditure was taken from Melbourn Fete Committee funds.

Melbourn Fete Committee is grateful for the continued support from the MPC. MPC's commitment enables us to stage important events for the community such as the Fete, Turn on to Christmas each year and Open Gardens.

C M Carter, Treasurer

Community Benefit Grants 2016 – 2025

Chart Area



DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT 2026

District Cllr Jose Hales & District Cllr Sally Ann Hart

This year's report could also be called 'Consultation, Consultation, Consultation' for reasons that will become obvious upon reading. 😊

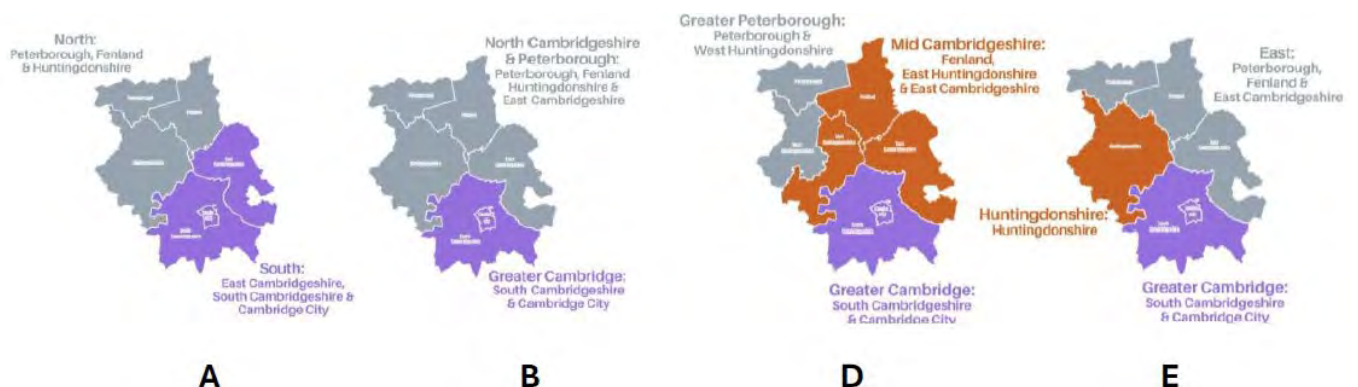
Local Government Reorganisation

Local Government Reorganisation is a process in which the Government is seeking to replace existing district and county councils with a single layer of "unitary councils". In November 2025, the various principal authorities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough submitted different proposals for what those new councils should look like.

The Government is currently consulting on those proposals and is expected to make its final decision in the summer. You can read all four business cases and respond to the consultation here: [Proposals for local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough - GOV.UK](#) (Deadline 26th March)

The four proposals on the table are as follows:

Option	Submitted by
A	Cambridgeshire CC
B	South Cambs DC, East Cambs DC, Cambridge CC
D	Peterborough CC, Fenland DC
E	Huntingdonshire DC



There was option C, which would have included South Cambs, Cambridge and Huntingdonshire in the same council, but this was not taken forwards by any council.

We expect the Government to decide which option they want in the summer, for elections to the “shadow councils” to take place in May 2027, and for the new councils to take over in April 2028. Therefore, the upcoming district council elections are likely to be the last ones ever.

We will of course keep you updated as more news comes forwards.

Development Corporation Consultation

The Government is also consulting on an Urban Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge. This would take planning powers (both determining applications above a certain size and making the local plan) away from local councils and give it to a Dev. Co. made up of a majority of members appointed by the Secretary of State (rather than elected locally). This is as part of the Government’s ambitions to “turbocharge” growth in and around Cambridge.

You can read the full proposals here, as well as respond to the consultation: [Establishing a Development Corporation in Greater Cambridge - GOV.UK](#) (Deadline 1st April)

Planning

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has won the award for Planning Authority of the Year 2025. This is a massive achievement and something we’re all very proud of.

The Youth Engagement Service (YES!) within the GCSPS has also been recognised nationally for its work getting young people involved in planning and design - pupils from Melbourn Primary School and Melbourn Village College have previously been involved with these projects.

We’ve recently consulted on our Draft Local Plan (reg 18). You can learn more about this here, as well as next steps: [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#)

You can also view our Authority Monitoring Report here: [Authority Monitoring Report](#). This document sets out how we are progressing towards targets in our existing Local Plan, as well as to Government Housing Targets.

Mobile Wardens scheme

SCDC continues to support the Mobile Wardens Scheme, which offers support and assistance for older people to allow them to continue to live independently at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) either by a personal visit or by a telephone call, to ensure a sense of security and wellbeing. SCDC has set out a funding programme which will enable mobile warden schemes to transition to being more financially independent, hopefully securing their long-term viability across the district. Melbourn Parish Council also provides financial support for this vital service.

A record number of new council houses

This year has been a record-breaking year for South Cambridgeshire when it comes to building new council houses. When the administration came to power in 2018, the council was only building a maximum of 35 new council houses each year - what this meant was, due to right to buy sales, over the period 2013 to 2018, the Council actually lost 99 council houses.

We have nearly quadrupled the rate of council house building since then. This year, as of writing, we have delivered at least 120 new council homes across South Cambridgeshire and should (by the end of the financial year) have delivered 139 new council homes. This represents the highest number of new council houses on record.

Being green to our core

Plans for the next 12 months will see major progress on the Council's Being Green to Our Core priority, including the ongoing roll-out of [weekly food waste collections](#) to help reduce the amount of food waste being sent to landfill.

There will also be the continued construction of a [solar energy park](#) to help power the Council's growing fleet of electric bin lorries.

If you're not already signed up, please sign up to the Council's Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) newsletter, which goes out quarterly and contains information about all the council's various environmental projects: [Zero Carbon Communities Newsletter - South Cambs District Council](#)

The Council has also just adopted a new unified Climate and Nature Strategy - which brings together all of our climate change and nature recovery work. It's a really exciting document and well worth a read:

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s142386/Appendix%20B%20Full%20Council.pdf>

Cost of living crisis mitigation and Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)

We're making the LIFT scheme permanent. We're also adding a 2 year apprentice role to help make the most of the LIFT programme. It's already done fantastic work for residents - so far we've helped over 1,000 residents claim benefits they're entitled to but were missing out on (mostly Pension Credit, Winter Fuel Allowance and Household Support Fund, but also Healthy Start Vouchers, Free School Meals, Attendance Allowance and reduced water tariffs).

We've supported over 200 older people who struggle to engage online using LIFT - identifying those most at risk of social isolation and on low incomes. In year 1 - this programme delivered over £514,000 in additional income for South Cambs residents with a lifetime estimated value of over £3.9 million. We feel extremely proud to continue this scheme and invest more resource into making it work even better!

With many residents still facing financial pressures, the Council will continue providing its comprehensive [cost-of-living support package](#). A budget of £449,000 is set aside to help residents through the next two years through schemes such as emergency food and energy support, workshops, budgeting and debt advice, white goods and furniture for vulnerable people and laptops with digital training.

Homes for Ukraine scheme

Sadly, it's now been four years since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, and many Ukrainians are still unable to safely return home. South Cambridgeshire continues to support Ukrainian guests. As of writing, there are 104 Ukrainian guests being hosted in South Cambridgeshire, being hosted by 75 households. Many have moved on to private rented accommodation in the UK. In total 1,009 people have arrived in South Cambridgeshire under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Community Chest Grants

The Council continues to provide Community Chest funding, and this reflects the Council's commitment to sustaining grassroots initiatives and supporting a stronger, more connected community. By investing in these organisations, the district ensures that local people continue to benefit from essential services, social opportunities, and support networks. Community Chest grant funding is available to voluntary and community sector groups,

charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire. During this year Mix Music DJ, Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme, St George's Allotment & Leisure Garden Association, Melbourn Timebank, Melbourn Fete Committee and Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Interest Company have all received grants ranging from £750 to £10,000.

Budget and Council Tax Setting

At the Council's budget meeting, councillors agreed to a £5.24 increase for a Band D property. This works out to 10p a week.

We've included below a comparison of the different precepts charged across Cambridgeshire. This doesn't include police and fire precepts or the Mayor's precept. It also doesn't include town and parish precepts (which in an increasing number of cases are now larger than the District Council's). As you can see, South Cambridgeshire charges slightly more than Huntingdonshire DC, but significantly less than both Cambridge CC and Fenland DCs.

District	Unitary Precept	District Precept	County Precept	Total
East Cambs		£142.14	£1,785.42	£1,927.56
Huntingdonshire		£170.86	£1,785.42	£1,956.28
South Cambs		£180.64	£1,785.42	£1,966.06
Cambridge		£239.07	£1,785.42	£2,024.49
Fenland		£253.35	£1,785.42	£2,038.77
Peterborough	£1,836.72			£1,836.72

This is in the context of significant cuts to our funding from central government. Our core spending power is being cut by over £5 million over the next 3 years, thanks to the Government's "fair funding review 2.0" which is hurting councils in rural areas like ours. That drop is the equivalent to 15% of our core spending power.

This is largely because we're losing 40% of our retained business rates, and whilst the government is providing some transition funding, that will be removed over the next 3 years.

As a result of the government's funding changes, we are increasingly reliant on council tax. In this budget - council tax represents 35% of our core spending power. Come 2028/29 - council tax will represent 47% of our core spending power.

Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer

The council continues to employ a Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer - Jack Bullimore - who has acted as a point of contact for parish councils over the last year. Alongside your district councillors, please look out for contacts from him.

Elections

Obviously, the district elections are fast approaching, and it'll perhaps come as no surprise that both of us are re-standing. Parish elections will also be taking place. Please see a summary of the timetable for the elections:

Publication of Notice of Election	Monday 30 March 2026
Receipt of Nominations	4:00 pm Thursday 9 April 2026
Last Date for Registration	Monday 20 April 2026
Receipt of Postal Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 21 April 2026
Last day for Voter Authority Certificates	5:00 pm Tuesday 28 April 2026
Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 28 April 2026
Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 7 May 2026
Day of Poll	7:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 7 May 2026

For all the information, please see the district council's website: [Elections 2026 - South Cambs District Council](#)

As ever, please encourage people to register to vote and to go to the polls!

Thank you,

Jose Hales & Sally Ann Hart

COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

County Cllr Adam Bostanci

It's almost a year since my election to the county council, so it's a good time to take stock. It's a huge responsibility and a continuous exercise in balancing the needs of residents of all ages and in all walks of life.

The initial sections focus on high-level developments at the County Council during the past year. These are the result of the joint work of over 4,000 employees and 61 county councillors. Towards the end I also mention some of the committees I am getting involved in. Being in local politics can make a real difference, and my hope is to inspire the next generation to participate in public life.

In the year ahead, I look forward to continuing to meet and get to know more and more residents and to continuing to work closely with Melbourn Parish Councillors.

Highways

We understand that this is the number one concern for many residents. It's important to begin by saying that the general condition of our roads and footways is the result of many years of underinvestment, which has left us with incredibly poor surfaces and an estimated £800m repair bill across the county. Legacy maintenance contracts are also behind the problems we have seen as the wet and cold have taken their toll. Even with recent increases, government funding still falls short of the manifest challenge.

In the last three years, the county council has more than doubled the annual amount spent on highway maintenance. Within the constraints of stretched local authority budgets and statutory responsibilities for adult social care, the county council's recently approved budget nevertheless includes an additional investment of £20 million, bringing the amount to be spent specifically on maintenance and improvements to £58 million. During the winter, the county council surged the deployment of repair crews and dragon patchers, with pothole repairs reaching 2,000 potholes each week.

The long-term outlook is slowly improving, following a reorganisation of the highways department and the introduction of a new asset management system. Last summer, significant areas of deterioration were tackled with large patches and significant overdue vegetation management was carried out. We expect to see more of this when spring

arrives and in future years. Work is also underway to strengthen maintenance contracts and internal processes to improve the responsiveness to the worst potholes reported by residents.

Please continue to report issues:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

Schools

Hardly anything is as important as the next generation. Recently, the Melbourn Practical Solutions Group, with representation from all local councils as well as community and youth services, reconvened its meetings at Melbourn Village College, for the first time since the pandemic. Following the withdrawal of discretionary school buses from and to Royston, we supported the provision of an additional bus stop for Bassingbourn-bound students in the afternoon. I look forward, together with our district councillors, to continuing to work with all schools and PTAs on future projects, from initiatives like a “bike bus” to facilitating the provision additional services to support students and pupils.

Budget

In February, the council approved its nearly £1.3 billion business plan and budget, which includes a number of investments.

- Highways: an additional £20 million for highway maintenance.
- £14.7 million of additional funding for adult social care providers to help them manage rising costs and ensure care workers are paid the Real Living Wage, improving stability and quality for those who depend on care workers for their support.
- Continuing holiday meal vouchers until the end of summer 2026 for those children most in need, despite the Government withdrawing the Household Support Fund; the council will also use the new £5 million Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide a wider range of anti-poverty measures, offering practical support to households facing financial challenges.
- 3,500 new primary school places, and £72 million over five years to increase secondary school places.
- £780,000 a year to run a children’s residential home in South Cambridgeshire, along with continued funding for the Families First early intervention programme that helps keep more families together.

- More than £1.2 million will be invested in libraries and archives over the next two years.

Rising costs in social care and special educational needs are putting enormous pressure on council finances, and these statutory services for our most vulnerable residents now account for by far the largest part of our budget.

The plans include an increase of council tax by 4.99 per cent, the maximum permitted by Government for county councils, as is the case in nearly all councils across England, and the level assumed by Government in setting its grant allocations. This will generate around £21 million in additional funding and help the council continue providing the essential services people rely on.

Growth in the economy is sorely needed for public services to improve.

Local Government Reorganisation

The reorganisation of local government by merging district and county council into new unitary authorities has taken up much bandwidth at county council during the year. Most recently, the government is undertaking its own consultation on all four options for local government reorganisation developed by local councils.



Map of LGR option A



Map of LGR option B

In our area, two main options are in play for a future unitary authority. Very likely, South Cambridgeshire District will either merge with Cambridge City Council to form a “Greater

Cambridge” unitary authority, or merge with Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire to form a “South-East Cambridgeshire” unitary authority. While most other parts of Cambridgeshire would prefer to merge with the uniquely successful City of Cambridge, our area will very likely do so.

The consultation, with the opportunity to comment on all the options for local government reorganisation, closes 26 March 2026.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough>

Greater Cambridge Development Corporation

Wishing to build on Cambridge’s success, the government has proposed to create a centrally led Greater Cambridge Development Corporation. If established, this would extend the remit of the existing Cambridge Growth Company. Initially, the DevCo would focus on delivery of the housing development identified in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, with planning powers to determine large developments. The ambition is that development would be infrastructure-led, and the DevCo would have the ear of government in addressing challenges relating to transport and water in our area. With economic growth, it may also be possible to address regional transport challenges.

At a recent information event, representatives from parish and town council stressed the need to adopt a strategic and long-term approach to development mindful of the needs of younger people and of business, including in villages such as ours. Transport challenges were mentioned several times.

The consultation is surprisingly short and closes on 1 April 2026.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge>

Buses

We have continued to receive much feedback about the performance of the local 17 and 26 bus services, which are nevertheless a lifeline for many residents. We have passed this feedback on the Mayoral Combined Authority, which is the responsible local transport authority. As a result, the bus operator has been called in to discuss performance.

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ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2026

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL  DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!


AWARD MADE AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
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Thomas Pope

In recognition of reacting with great poise, care and compassion during a first aid incident.

Cllr Graham Clark
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ALL-ROUND GOOD EGG

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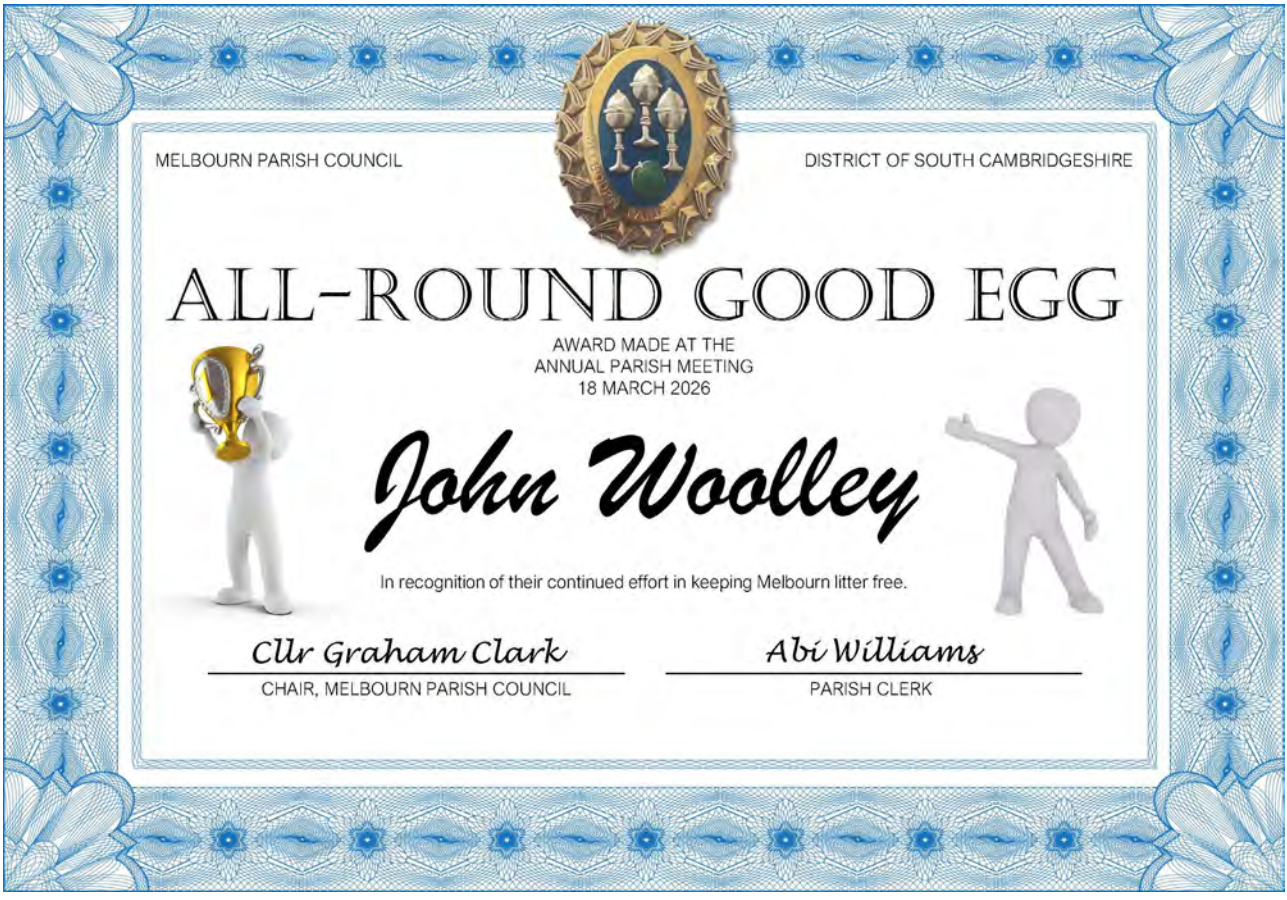
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County Councillor Annual Report for Melbourn PC

It's almost a year since my election to the county council, so it's a good time to take stock. It's a huge responsibility and a continuous exercise in balancing the needs of residents of all ages and in all walks of life.

The initial sections focus on high-level developments at the County Council during the past year. These are the result of the joint work of over 4,000 employees and 61 county councillors. Towards the end I also mention some of the committees I am getting involved in. Being in local politics can make a real difference, and my hope is to inspire the next generation to participate in public life.

In the year ahead, I look forward to continuing to meet and get to know more and more residents and to continuing to work closely with Melbourn Parish Councillors.

Highways

We understand that this is the number one concern for many residents. It's important to begin by saying that the general condition of our roads and footways is the result of many years of underinvestment, which has left us with incredibly poor surfaces and an estimated £800m repair bill across the county. Legacy maintenance contracts are also behind the problems we have seen as the wet and cold have taken their toll. Even with recent increases, government funding still falls short of the manifest challenge.

In the last three years, the county council has more than doubled the annual amount spent on highway maintenance. Within the constraints of stretched local authority budgets and statutory responsibilities for adult social care, the county council's recently approved budget nevertheless includes an additional investment of £20 million, bringing the amount to be spent specifically on maintenance and improvements to £58 million. During the winter, the county council surged the deployment of repair crews and dragon patchers, with pothole repairs reaching 2,000 potholes each week.

The long-term outlook is slowly improving, following a reorganisation of the highways department and the introduction of a new asset management system. Last summer, significant areas of deterioration were tackled with large patches and significant overdue vegetation management was carried out. We expect to see more of this when spring arrives and in future years. Work is also underway to strengthen maintenance contracts and internal processes to improve the responsiveness to the worst potholes reported by residents.

Please continue to report issues:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

Schools

Hardly anything is as important as the next generation. Recently, the Melbourn Practical Solutions Group, with representation from all local councils as well as community and

youth services, reconvened its meetings at Melbourn Village College, for the first time since the pandemic. Following the withdrawal of discretionary school buses from and to Royston, we supported the provision of an additional bus stop for Bassingbourn-bound students in the afternoon. I look forward, together with our district councillors, to continuing to work with all schools and PTAs on future projects, from initiatives like a “bike bus” to facilitating the provision additional services to support students and pupils.

Budget

In February, the council approved its nearly £1.3 billion business plan and budget, which includes a number of investments.

- Highways: an additional £20 million for highway maintenance.
- £14.7 million of additional funding for adult social care providers to help them manage rising costs and ensure care workers are paid the Real Living Wage, improving stability and quality for those who depend on care workers for their support.
- continuing holiday meal vouchers until the end of summer 2026 for those children most in need, despite the Government withdrawing the Household Support Fund; the council will also use the new £5 million Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide a wider range of anti-poverty measures, offering practical support to households facing financial challenges.
- 3,500 new primary school places, and £72 million over five years to increase secondary school places.
- £780,000 a year to run a children’s residential home in South Cambridgeshire, along with continued funding for the Families First early intervention programme that helps keep more families together.
- more than £1.2 million will be invested in libraries and archives over the next two years.

Rising costs in social care and special educational needs are putting enormous pressure on council finances, and these statutory services for our most vulnerable residents now account for by far the largest part of our budget.

The plans include an increase of council tax by 4.99 per cent, the maximum permitted by Government for county councils, as is the case in nearly all councils across England, and the level assumed by Government in setting its grant allocations. This will generate around £21 million in additional funding and help the council continue providing the essential services people rely on.

Growth in the economy is sorely needed for public services to improve.

Local Government Reorganisation

The reorganisation of local government by merging district and county council into new unitary authorities has taken up much bandwidth at county council during the year. Most

recently, the government is undertaking its own consultation on all four options for local government reorganisation developed by local councils.



Map of LGR option A



Map of LGR option B

In our area, two main options are in play for a future unitary authority. Very likely, South Cambridgeshire District will either merge with Cambridge City Council to form a “Greater Cambridge” unitary authority, or merge with Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire to form a “South-East Cambridgeshire” unitary authority. While most other parts of Cambridgeshire would prefer to merge with the uniquely successful City of Cambridge, our area will very likely do so.

The consultation, with the opportunity to comment on all the options for local government reorganisation, closes 26 March 2026.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough>

Greater Cambridge Development Corporation

Wishing to build on Cambridge’s success, the government has proposed to create a centrally led Greater Cambridge Development Corporation. If established, this would extend the remit of the existing Cambridge Growth Company. Initially, the DevCo would focus on delivery of the housing development identified in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, with planning powers to determine large developments. The ambition is that development would be infrastructure-led, and the DevCo would have the ear of government in addressing challenges relating to transport and water in our area. With economic growth, it may also be possible to address regional transport challenges.

At a recent information event, representatives from parish and town council stressed the need to adopt a strategic and long-term approach to development mindful of the needs of younger people and of business, including in villages such as ours. Transport challenges were mentioned several times.

The consultation is surprisingly short and closes on 1 April 2026.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge>

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District Councillor Report to Annual Parish Meetings 2026 by District Councillors Jose Hales & Sally Ann Hart

This year's report could also be called 'Consultation, Consultation, Consultation' for reasons that will become obvious upon reading. 😊

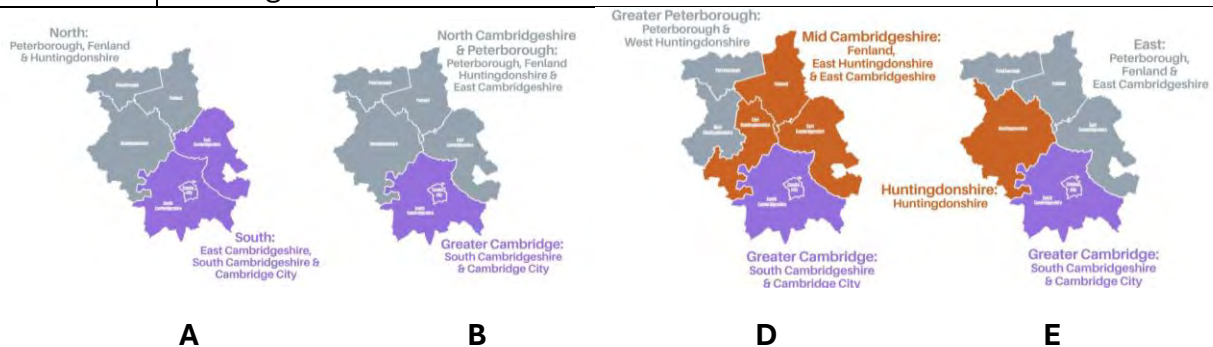
Local Government Reorganisation

Local Government Reorganisation is a process in which the Government is seeking to replace existing district and county councils with a single layer of "unitary councils". In November 2025, the various principal authorities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough submitted different proposals for what those new councils should look like.

The Government is currently consulting on those proposals and is expected to make its final decision in the summer. You can read all four business cases and respond to the consultation here: [Proposals for local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough - GOV.UK](#) (Deadline 26th March)

The four proposals on the table are as follows:

Option	Submitted by
A	Cambridgeshire CC
B	South Cambs DC, East Cambs DC, Cambridge CC
D	Peterborough CC, Fenland DC
E	Huntingdonshire DC



There was option C, which would have included South Cambs, Cambridge and Huntingdonshire in the same council, but this was not taken forwards by any council.

We expect the Government to decide which option they want in the summer, for elections to the "shadow councils" to take place in May 2027, and for the new councils to take over in

April 2028. Therefore, the upcoming district council elections are likely to be the last ones ever.

We will of course keep you updated as more news comes forwards.

Development Corporation Consultation

The Government is also consulting on an Urban Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge. This would take planning powers (both determining applications above a certain size and making the local plan) away from local councils and give it to a Dev. Co. made up of a majority of members appointed by the Secretary of State (rather than elected locally). This is as part of the Government's ambitions to "turbocharge" growth in and around Cambridge.

You can read the full proposals here, as well as respond to the consultation: [Establishing a Development Corporation in Greater Cambridge - GOV.UK](#) (Deadline 1st April)

Planning

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has won the award for Planning Authority of the Year 2025. This is a massive achievement and something we're all very proud of.

The Youth Engagement Service (YES!) within the GCSPS has also been recognised nationally for its work getting young people involved in planning and design – pupils from Melbourn Primary School and Melbourn Village College have previously been involved with these projects.

We've recently consulted on our Draft Local Plan (reg 18). You can learn more about this here, as well as next steps: [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#)

You can also view our Authority Monitoring Report here: [Authority Monitoring Report](#). This document sets out how we are progressing towards targets in our existing Local Plan, as well as to Government Housing Targets.

Mobile Wardens scheme

SCDC continues to support the Mobile Wardens Scheme, which offers support and assistance for older people to allow them to continue to live independently at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) either by a personal visit or by a telephone call, to ensure a sense of security and wellbeing. SCDC has set out a funding programme which will enable mobile warden schemes to transition to being more financially independent, hopefully securing their long-term viability across the district. Melbourn Parish Council also provides financial support for this vital service.

A record number of new council houses

This year has been a record-breaking year for South Cambridgeshire when it comes to building new council houses. When the administration came to power in 2018, the council was only building a maximum of 35 new council houses each year – what this meant was, due to right to buy sales, over the period 2013 to 2018, the Council actually lost 99 council houses.

We have nearly quadrupled the rate of council house building since then. This year, as of writing, we have delivered at least 120 new council homes across South Cambridgeshire and should (by the end of the financial year) have delivered 139 new council homes. This represents the highest number of new council houses on record.

Being green to our core

Plans for the next 12 months will see major progress on the Council's Being Green to Our Core priority, including the ongoing roll-out of [weekly food waste collections](#) to help reduce the amount of food waste being sent to landfill.

There will also be the continued construction of [a solar energy park](#) to help power the Council's growing fleet of electric bin lorries.

If you're not already signed up, please sign up to the Council's Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) newsletter, which goes out quarterly and contains information about all the council's various environmental projects: [Zero Carbon Communities Newsletter - South Cambs District Council](#)

The Council has also just adopted a new unified Climate and Nature Strategy – which brings together all of our climate change and nature recovery work. It's a really exciting document and well worth a read:

<https://scambsmodern.gov.co.uk/documents/s142386/Appendix%20B%20Full%20Council.pdf>

Cost of living crisis mitigation and Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)

We're making the LIFT scheme permanent. We're also adding a 2 year apprentice role to help make the most of the LIFT programme. It's already done fantastic work for residents - so far we've helped over 1,000 residents claim benefits they're entitled to but were missing out on (mostly Pension Credit, Winter Fuel Allowance and Household Support Fund, but also Healthy Start Vouchers, Free School Meals, Attendance Allowance and reduced water tariffs).

We've supported over 200 older people who struggle to engage online using LIFT - identifying those most at risk of social isolation and on low incomes. In year 1 - this programme delivered over £514,000 in additional income for South Cambs residents with a lifetime estimated value of over £3.9 million. We feel extremely proud to continue this scheme and invest more resource into making it work even better!

With many residents still facing financial pressures, the Council will continue providing its comprehensive [cost-of-living support package](#). A budget of £449,000 is set aside to help residents through the next two years through schemes such as emergency food and energy support, workshops, budgeting and debt advice, white goods and furniture for vulnerable people and laptops with digital training.

Homes for Ukraine scheme

Sadly, it's now been four years since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, and many Ukrainians are still unable to safely return home. South Cambridgeshire continues to support Ukrainian guests. As of writing, there are 104 Ukrainian guests being hosted in South Cambridgeshire, being hosted by 75 households. Many have moved on to private rented accommodation in the UK. In total 1,009 people have arrived in South Cambridgeshire under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Community Chest Grants

The Council continues to provide Community Chest funding, and this reflects the Council's commitment to sustaining grassroots initiatives and supporting a stronger, more connected community. By investing in these organisations, the district ensures that local people continue to benefit from essential services, social opportunities, and support networks. Community Chest grant funding is available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire. During this year Mix Music DJ, Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme, St George's Allotment & Leisure Garden Association, Melbourn Timebank, Melbourn Fete Committee and Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Interest Company have all received grants ranging from £750 to £10,000.

Budget and Council Tax Setting

At the Council's budget meeting, councillors agreed to a £5.24 increase for a Band D property. This works out to 10p a week.

We've included below a comparison of the different precepts charged across Cambridgeshire. This doesn't include police and fire precepts or the Mayor's precept. It also doesn't include town and parish precepts (which in an increasing number of cases are now larger than the District Council's). As you can see, South Cambridgeshire charges

slightly more than Huntingdonshire DC, but significantly less than both Cambridge CC and Fenland DCs.

District	Unitary Precept	District Precept	County Precept	Total
East Cambs		£142.14	£1,785.42	£1,927.56
Huntingdonshire		£170.86	£1,785.42	£1,956.28
South Cambs		£180.64	£1,785.42	£1,966.06
Cambridge		£239.07	£1,785.42	£2,024.49
Fenland		£253.35	£1,785.42	£2,038.77
Peterborough	£1,836.72			£1,836.72

This is in the context of significant cuts to our funding from central government. Our core spending power is being cut by over £5 million over the next 3 years, thanks to the Government’s “fair funding review 2.0” which is hurting councils in rural areas like ours. That drop is the equivalent to 15% of our core spending power.

This is largely because we’re losing 40% of our retained business rates, and whilst the government is providing some transition funding, that will be removed over the next 3 years.

As a result of the government’s funding changes, we are increasingly reliant on council tax. In this budget - council tax represents 35% of our core spending power. Come 2028/29 - council tax will represent 47% of our core spending power.

Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer

The council continues to employ a Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer – Jack Bullimore – who has acted as a point of contact for parish councils over the last year. Alongside your district councillors, please look out for contacts from him.

Elections

Obviously, the district elections are fast approaching, and it’ll perhaps come as no surprise that both of us are re-standing. Parish elections will also be taking place.

Please see a summary of the timetable for the elections:

Publication of Notice of Election	Monday 30 March 2026
Receipt of Nominations	4:00 pm Thursday 9 April 2026
Last Date for Registration	Monday 20 April 2026
Receipt of Postal Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 21 April 2026
Last day for Voter Authority Certificates	5:00 pm Tuesday 28 April 2026
Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 28 April 2026
Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 7 May 2026
Day of Poll	7:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 7 May 2026

For all the information, please see the district council's website: [Elections 2026 - South Cambs District Council](#)

As ever, please encourage people to register to vote and to go to the polls!

Thank you,

Jose Hales & Sally Ann Hart

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