

# ANNUAL REPORT 2026



## Melbourn Parish Council

Melbourn Community Hub, 30 High Street,  
Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, SG8 6DZ  
[www.melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual report from The Chair of Melbourn Parish Council	3
Democracy on your doorstep	6
Reports from Committees & Working Parties of the Parish Council	8
Planning Committee	8
Finance & Good Governance Committee	9
Maintenance Committee	10
HR Panel	11
Futures Working Party	12
MAYD Joint Committee	13
Timebank and MACS (Melbourn Action Community Support)	14
To receive reports from the Parish Council Representatives on Village Charities and Other Organisations	18
Trigg's Charity	18
Martins Charity	18
Francis John Clear Almshouses	19
Melbourn & District Warden Scheme	19
Melbourn Community Hub	20
Melbourn & Meldreth Lunch Club	22
Melbourn Action Community Support (MACS)	23
Community Rail Partnership	25
Community Allotment	37
Grants Awarded in 2025 - 2026 and how the money was spent	39
Melbourn Library	40
St Georges Allotment	40
Melbourn Dynamos Football Club	42
Community Support for Dementia	44
Melbourn Fete Committee	45
All Saints Church	45
Melbourn Primary School PTFA	47
1 <sup>st</sup> Orwell Scouts	48
Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire	49
Melbourn Baptist Church	51
Melbourn Village College Squash Club	51
Mix Music	52
Turn on to Christmas	57
District Council Report 2026	59
County Council Annual Report 2025	65
Annual Community Awards 2026	71

# 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 Council 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.

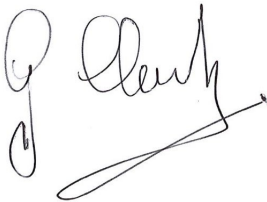
Furthermore, the Futures Working Party has been one of the successful recipients of another Local Highways Improvement (LHI) grant. This grant was pitched to support the safer school initiative. Aiming to make the surrounding area to the Primary School safer with road improvements following a detailed 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/](http://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 a 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><b>2025:</b> 6 May, 9 June, 9 July, 13 August, 10 September, 8 October, 12 November, 10 December</p> <p><b>2026:</b> 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

<b>Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)</b>	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

<b>Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)</b>	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><b>Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)</b></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

<b>Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)</b>	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

<p><b>Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)</b></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>20 November 2025, 5 February 2026</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>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>
<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 Andrew Kyprianou, Chair MAYD Joint Committee.

## Timebank and MACS (Melbourn Action Community Support)

Prepared by: Stephanie Trayhurn, Timebank and Community Coordinator

### Highlights

<p><b>MACS</b>          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 &amp; MVC with Food bank bags, breakfast foods, snack items and Craft supplies          P3 Drop-in sessions 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at Food Bank  <b>MACS received HSF Grants</b>          Community Food initiative Grant received in January to fund Slow Cooker event where 30 cookers with fresh ingredients were distributed</p>
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
<p><b>April</b> Aquathon team raised £400 for MACS and Home start          Trusted Partner Status retained</p>
<p><b>May</b> Daytime Disco introduced in conjunction with Mix Music          VE 80 years Tea Party held at Cozy Corner</p>
<p><b>June</b> Community Support for Dementia trip to Felixstowe with TB members          SDC Information event at Cozy Corner – 53 attendees</p>
<p><b>August</b> Big Picnic attended by over 50 people</p>
<p><b>September</b> Digital Champion role introduced at Cozy Corner</p>
<p><b>October</b> Kurling introduced at Cozy Corner          Chair based Yoga introduced <u>bi weekly</u> at Coffee morning          Coffee morning relocated to Vicarage Close</p>
<p><b>November</b> Vaccination event 10<sup>th</sup>          Food bank moved to The Pavilion          Slow Cookers distributed to Cozy Corner visitors via ACRE</p>
<p><b>December</b> Christmas lunch at Hub with 49 attendees</p>
<p><b>January</b> Community Food Initiative Grant received in January to fund Slow Cooker event for providing 30 cookers with fresh ingredients</p>
<p><b>March</b> 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</p>

### 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

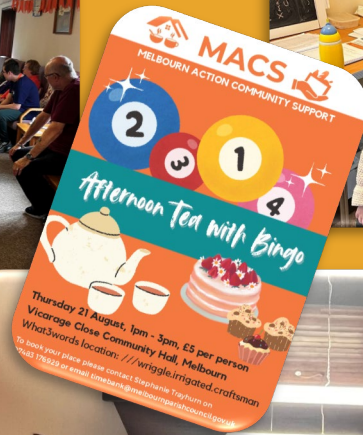
	Apr 25	March '26
Individual Members	167	175
Organisation Members	18	18

### 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  
What3words location: // wriggle.irrigated.craftsman  
To book your place please contact Stephanie Taylor on  
0443 79629 or email [timebank@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:timebank@melbournparishcouncil.gov.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 5pm Elm Way, Community Centre, Meldreth

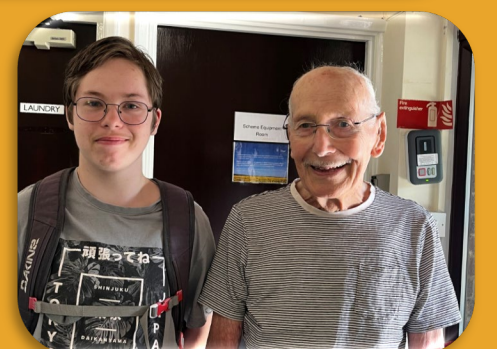
**THURSDAY**  
Food Bank 9.30 - 11.30am, The Pavilion  
Cozy Corner (closed 4th Thursday of the month)  
12 - 3pm, Vicarage Close  
Craft Group / Seated Yoga / Kurling  
Coffee Morning 10 - 12noon, Vicarage Close

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

For help, donations or to volunteer please contact  
Stephanie Traynham on 07483 719529 or email  
[timebank@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:timebank@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk)




**THANK YOU!**



# Celebrating our volunteers



**MACS**  
MELBOURN ACTION COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Supported by  
**MUSIC**

**Daytime Disco**

Sat 13 September 2025, 2pm - 4pm,  
Vicarage Close Community Hall, Melbourn  
What3words location: ///wriggle.irrig  
For more information please contact Stephanie  
017483 176929 or email timebank@melbournpa

**MACS**  
MELBOURN ACTION COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

**Tuesday 3 March**  
12-2pm  
**SLOW COOKER EVENT**

The Pavilion, Melbourn  
What3words location: ///swing.that.puts

**ESSENTIAL!**  
shcouncil.gov.uk  
ce.

For further information please contact  
017483 176929 or email  
shcouncil.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 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...

**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** 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](mailto:timebank@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk)



# Cam Valley Community Rail Partnership



# 2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council



# Table of Contents

→	01	Introduction by the Chair
→	02	Cam Valley CRP
→	03	Providing a Voice for the Community
→	04	Promoting Sustainable & Healthy Travel
→	05	Bringing Communities Together
→	06	Supporting Social & Economic Development
→	07	Strengthening the Partnership
→	08	Community Rail Awards
→	09	Financial Statement
→	10	Contact Us

# 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.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



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.

CAM VALLEY CRP

# 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

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



**CAM VALLEY**  
Community Rail Partnership

# Contact Us



Email	<a href="mailto:sarah.grove@scambbs.gov.uk">sarah.grove@scambbs.gov.uk</a>	↑
Website	<a href="http://camvalleycrp.org.uk">camvalleycrp.org.uk</a>	↑
Facebook	<a href="#">CamValleyCRP</a>	↑
Instagram	<a href="#">camvalleycrp</a>	↑



## 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	<b>£58,020.33</b>

## 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:	<b>£37,853.42</b>

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:	<b>£15,216.81</b>
<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 9<sup>th</sup> 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:

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

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
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 1641.46</b>

### 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:

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

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. 😊

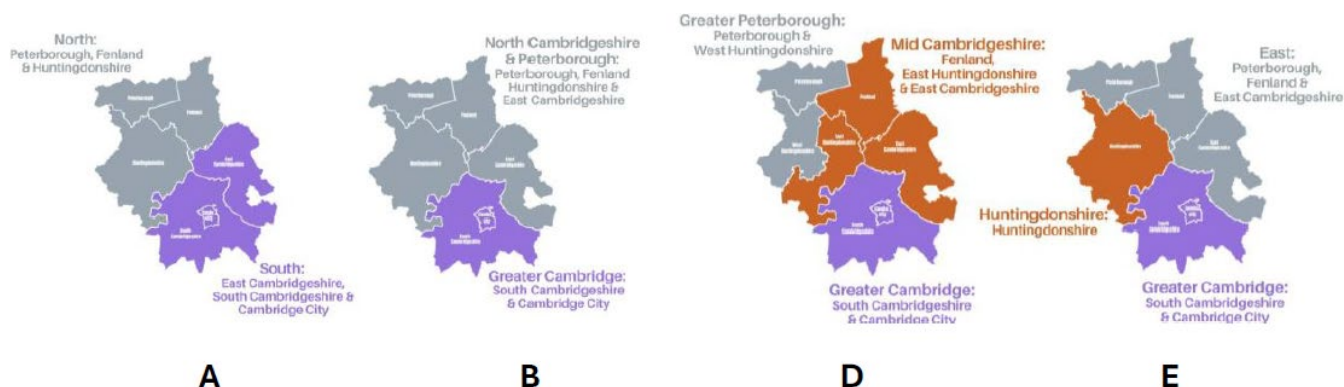
## Local Government Reorganisation

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.

The most recent meeting of the local Bus User Group took place in March to discuss performance and the shape of future services in this area as the Combined Authority moves towards bus franchising. Please let us know if you want to be added to the Bus User Group mailing list.

## **Waste**

In the coming year, food waste collection by means of dedicated caddies will commence in Melbourn. We ask everyone in the community to support this for two reasons. First, food waste recycling is a requirement under national legislation. Second, in contrast to ordinary garden waste, food waste decays to release a lot of methane gas into the atmosphere. But if the food waste is recycled in a special facility, the resulting methane can be fed into the gas grid and burned to produce carbon dioxide, which has a much lower global warming potential than the methane that would otherwise be released.

## **Safe disposal of batteries**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership RECAP is urging residents to recycle batteries and battery-powered electricals safely, following an increase in fires caused by incorrectly disposed lithium-ion batteries. Recent incidents include a fire at Thalia's Alconbury waste transfer station at New Year, as well as thirteen bin lorry fires across Cambridgeshire in the last twelve months.

In 2023, over 1.1 billion household items such as phones, tablets, e-cigarettes, toothbrushes and power tools were thrown away with batteries hidden inside. When these items end up in general waste or mixed recycling, batteries can ignite or explode during collection, transport or sorting.

To help prevent fires, residents are urged never to place batteries in the bin, to use designated recycling points, tape over damaged terminals and check for local collection schemes.

All types of batteries can be recycled free of charge at Household Recycling Centres, supermarkets and DIY stores. This includes loose household batteries, lithium-ion and rechargeable batteries, and batteries in small electrical items. Any shop that sells batteries must also accept used batteries for recycling.

## **Sustainability**

The county council played a large part in the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, formally the remit of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This strategy is now front of mind of many of local nature and sustainability groups, which are now being further supported by the council's "Nature Recovery from the Ground Up" project. It is good to see that there are so many active groups in our community.

In my role as vice-chair of the Environment & Green Investment Committee, I have also asked council officers to take a closer look at the community benefits parishes across the county receive from renewable energy schemes. Local solar farms, for example, are already making significant community benefit payments to parish councils, and in principle community benefits can be direct (i.e., a share of the energy generated) or indirect (i.e., a recurring payment in proportion to electricity generated).

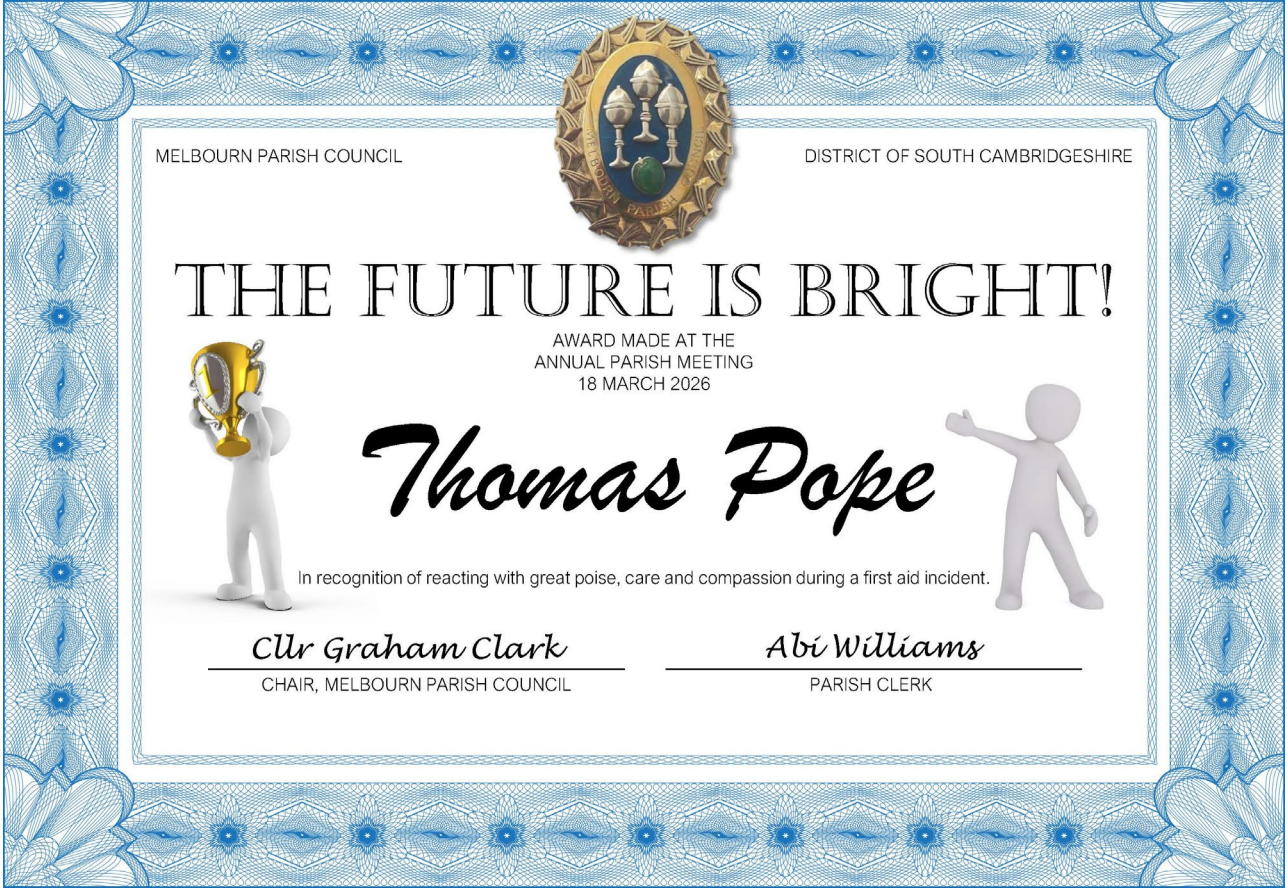
The council has successfully developed several renewable energy schemes, which are now exporting energy to the electricity grid and generating an economic return. The next step is to give communities the same opportunities to generate electricity and income via the council's work in community energy. All of this responds to the 79% of people across Cambridgeshire tell us that they are worried about climate change.

## **Economy**


After over five hours of democratic scrutiny, the council's Assets & Procurement Committee on which Adam sits approved a deal to put forward 67 acres of land, owned by the County Council, to allow the next phase of growth of Cambridge Biomedical Campus. This deal opens the door to up to £3 billion of private sector investment in Cambridgeshire and includes upfront delivery of a "Southern Access Road" and other transport infrastructure.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/3-billion-investment-to-support-future-expansion-of-cambridge-biomedical-campus>

# ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2026



MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL



DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

AWARD MADE AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
18 MARCH 2026

*Thomas Pope*

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

*Cllr Graham Clark*  
CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

*Abi Williams*  
PARISH CLERK



MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL



DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## COMMUNITY SUPERSTAR

AWARD MADE AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
18 MARCH 2026

*Peter Simonett*

In recognition of over 30 years dedication to the cohesion and wellbeing of the community through the editing and production of Melbourn Magazine.

*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  
18 MARCH 2026

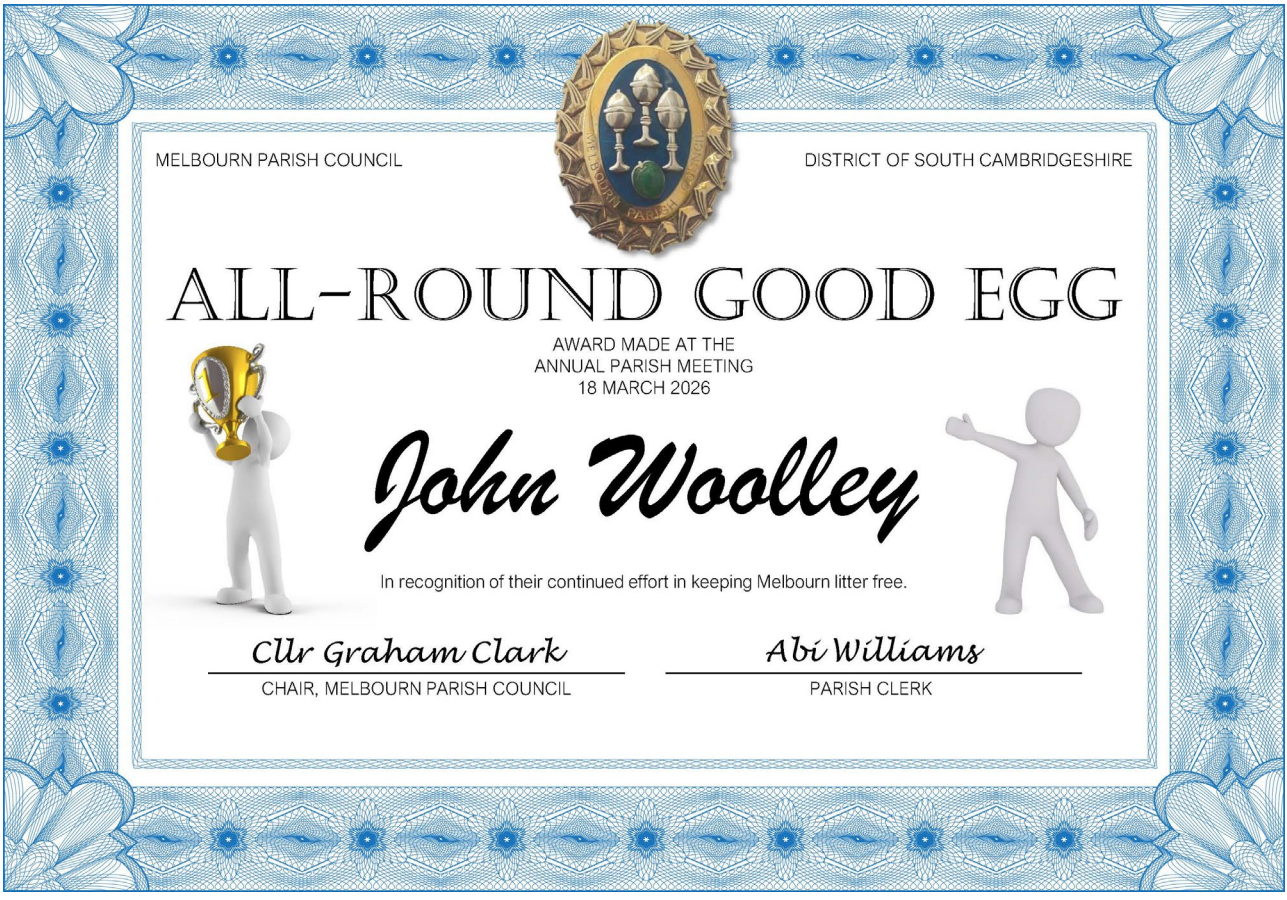


*Jeanette White*


In recognition of their outstanding contribution to a great number of community volunteering projects.

*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  
18 MARCH 2026



*John Woolley*

In recognition of their continued effort in keeping Melbourn litter free.

*Cllr Graham Clark*  
CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

*Abi Williams*  
PARISH CLERK

