

Report on actions from 5 February 2026

MAYD22/2526 **Connection Bus Project**

Contribution from Meldreth Parish Council received with thanks.

It was noted that flyers should be provided to other villages advertising the Tuesday night visits to Melbourn Village College – this has not been actioned. MPC asked MVC to advertise the offering but due to ongoing complaints and the risk of losing the parking area flyers have not been requested. A meeting with the school and talks with Connections Bus to look at alternative provision is needed to address the issues.

MAYD24/2526 **Review of assets**

Continued to work with Cambridgeshire County Council Communities team to look at opportunities to develop the youth offering.

MPC agreed to proceed with a strategic review of assets to report on possible improvements/actions. The review has been undertaken, and the report will be presented to Full Council in September.

MAYD25/2526 **Community Coordinator**

Job spec approved by MPC.

Delay in advertising the role due to information gathering by Cllrs.

Action is needed to progress.

MAYD26/2526 **Multigoals**

MPC Futures Working Party investigating the installation of multigoals on public land. Possibility of utilising s106 funding for public open space.

Activities since February

25 February 2026 **South Cambs Youth Forum (Histon)**

Cllr Kyprianou and Clerk attended.

15 April 2026 **Melbourn Village College – introduction session.**

Multi agency introductions to Melbourn Village College.

April – June **Generation Game Course** (provided by Connections Bus)

<https://www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk/courses>

This is a tailor made course to help you gain a basic level of knowledge, understanding and learning to be an excellent visitor to the elderly. look at and discuss topics such as how to be a good visitor to the elderly; what it's like to live with dementia; how we can help people who live in care homes; how similar/different our hobbies and interests are compared with an older person.

See report attached (Appendix A).

20 May 2026 **Practical Solutions Group**

Clerk and Cllrs attended Practical Solutions Group at Melbourn Village College. Topics included:

- Interest in Youth Council.
MPC to progress with project involving MPS and MVC.
- Concern over youths accessing the railway line.
Community Rail Partnership offered information sharing via assemblies.

- Concern raised over misuse of Melbourn Sports Centre (Connections bus).
Ongoing discussion over future of Connections Bus.
- Road safety around Primary School – potential ‘school street’ and implementation of LHI project.
Ongoing discussions with Cambridgeshire County Council to look at the impact on the LHI project (Meeting booked for 17 August 2026).
- Increase in ASB including false 999 calls and fire incidents, Evidence of fire-setting by a student shared with school/police.
MPC to promote how to report incidents.

13 June 2026

Melbourn Fete

Youth engagement focus – see report attached (Appendix B).

7 July 2026

South Cambs Youth Forum (SSYI)

Clerk attended.

14 July 2026

Involving Young People (webinar)

Clerk attended.

Future considerations

Firebreak Course <https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety/children-young-people-and-education/firebreak/>

Promoted by Cllrs Hart and Bostanci.

The intervention course offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage with operational firefighters who are given additional training to become Firebreak Instructors. As positive role models they support the participants and help them to build positive and trusting relationships. The course culminates at the end of the week with a pass out parade where participants demonstrate their practical achievements and are awarded their certification in front of invited guests and dignitaries.

Through the Firebreak approach, individuals who may be struggling to achieve within the traditional education framework benefit from the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. By challenging themselves in this supportive environment, participants can develop skills around team work and relationship building, focusing on reaching their potential and becoming an active and contributing member of their community.

- Referrals must be made by those working with young people.
- Would need input from College or Primary School and Connections Bus.
- Cost £5,000 (possible 50% funding available)

Connections Bus Babysitting Course <https://www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk/courses>

A tailor-made course to help you gain a basic level of knowledge, understanding and learning in looking after other people’s children (babysitting). As well as offering practical and hands-on experience, you will complete a portfolio of your work and receive a certificate on successful completion of the course, including Basic First Aid.

Connections Bus have offered to run the 10 week course in Melbourn from September at the cost of £1637.40.

THE GENERATION GAME

HELPING TO BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS
THE GENERATIONS



Tuesday 23rd June 2026

The Generation Game Team Visit to Melbourn Springs Care Home

Despite it being one of the hottest days of the year, and with many other activities cancelled at Melbourn Springs, The Generation Game Team remained committed to their visit. Their willingness to attend and spend time with residents demonstrated dedication, compassion, and a genuine desire to connect with others. Before entering the care home, the young people met to discuss how they were feeling and to prepare for their conversations with residents. Everyone expressed excitement about meeting new people and making a positive contribution to the residents' day. Students considered ways to begin conversations, including asking residents about their day, their interests and hobbies, introducing themselves, and even discussing the exceptionally hot weather.

A range of resources had been prepared to support interaction, including chess, word searches, conversation bags, puzzles, Connect 4, Uno, card-making materials and scratch art activities. Students hoped to learn more about residents' lives and experiences, develop their communication skills with older people, and bring enjoyment and companionship to those living at the care home.

On arrival, some residents were completing a puzzle and playing Scrabble. Students quickly joined in, helping with the puzzle, keeping score, and striking up conversations. Others pulled up chairs alongside residents in the lounge, engaging in meaningful discussions and sharing stories.

The group spent approximately 40 minutes socialising in the lounge before joining residents for tea in the dining room. Students were warmly welcomed and offered sandwiches, crisps, drinks and, for some, a hot meal. Sharing a meal together provided an excellent opportunity for further conversation and relationship-building. The impact of the visit was evident in the smiles, laughter and positive atmosphere throughout the afternoon. Both residents and students clearly enjoyed the experience, and many expressed a strong desire for future visits. Several students were so inspired by the experience that they are now considering completing the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award at Melbourn Springs.

Student Reflections

What did students enjoy most?

- Meeting new people.
- Talking with residents and learning about their lives.
- Hearing stories and memories from the past.
- Sharing a meal with residents.

How did students feel?

- "Very comfortable and inspired."
- "Happy – really happy we did it. It was fun!"
- "Amazing!"

APPENDIX A

What did students learn?

Students learned that:

- People of different generations often have common interests.
- Everyone has unique life experiences and stories to tell.
- It is important to respect and value older people's experiences.
- Some residents stay in care homes for respite rather than permanent care.
- Family, childhood experiences and careers play an important role in shaping people's lives.
- Listening carefully and communicating respectfully are essential skills.

Challenges

Students identified several challenges, including:

- Hearing residents who spoke quietly.
- Maintaining conversations when communication was difficult.
- Adapting their communication styles to different individuals.
- Speaking French with one resident!
- Leaving at the end of the visit because they had enjoyed it so much.

Skills Developed

Throughout the visit, students demonstrated and developed:

- Communication
- Active listening
- Patience
- Confidence
- Kindness
- Empathy
- Teamwork

What surprised students?

- How welcoming and talkative the residents were.
- How easy it was to start conversations.
- The strong connections that developed in a short time.
- The delicious food provided by the care home!

Looking Ahead

By the end of the visit, every student reported feeling more confident when interacting with older people. The experience highlighted the value of intergenerational connections and the positive impact that simple acts of companionship can have on wellbeing. The team is already looking forward to returning to Melbourn Springs and hopes to spend time with residents in Memory Lane during a future visit, further developing their understanding of dementia care and strengthening relationships within the community.

The overwhelming message from both residents and students was clear: this was a memorable and rewarding experience, and everyone is eager for the next visit.



APPENDIX A





At the recent Melbourn Fete the Parish Council stand posed two questions to the young people that stopped by (the offer of a lucky dip sweet helped!!). The youth in our community shared some great ideas.



The questions have been shared on social media and we will continue to collect responses – this information will be shared with the Communities Team at Cambridgeshire County Council who are helping us look at how we can make our community more welcoming to young people and offer them services and activities that will engage and inspire them.

On the day I was so impressed with the thoughtful responses given by our young people – often thinking of the wider community before their direct needs!



What do like about living in Melbourn?

Youngsters struggled with this one – they knew what they wanted but most were not so sure about what makes Melbourn great.

Responses (votes)

- The Park / Clear Crescent Park (10)
- The River Mel (4)
- The Community / friendly people / the people (4)
- The Moor (3)
- The space (2)
- The Co-op (2)
- The Premier shop (2)
- Football pitch (2)
- Village Fete
- School
- Stockbridge Meadows
- The Hub
- The village



What would you like to have in the village?

Some brilliant ideas – some easier to deliver than others but a great starting point for the Council to work out how to support our young people.

Responses (votes)

- A café for kids / bakers / ice cream shop (11)
- A splash park / water squirters (6)
- Youth club / space to go / a safe space (6)
- Pump track (5)
- Skate park (5)
- Traffic warden (4)
- More parks / Multi sports area / football pitches (4)
- Boxing Club (2)
- Sensory garden (2)
- No pot holes (2)
- Police station / person (2)
- Wider pavements (2)
- Stadium
- A gymnastics club
- A lollypop person
- More bike racks
- DJ booth
- Tescos
- Public toilets
- History club
- Scavenger hunts around the village
- Sainsburys
- More buses
- Tree house
- Gym
- Cat show
- Community litter pick days
- More gathering of the community