

# Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

## MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2026

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### CORPORATE PLAN

The Full Council received an updated Corporate Plan at its meeting on 16 July,

Some elements of it we agreed with—the importance of financial sustainability, being ambitious for recycling, nature improvements and climate adaptation, managing agricultural water supply, supporting local businesses, the Public Spaces Protection Order to combat anti-social driving in places like Elean Business Park.

We were pleased to see developments in the Inclusive Play Strategy which we proposed, and to see the proposed use of the Low Income Families Tracker, already in use for a couple of years in South Cambridgeshire, to help identify households that may not be receiving all the financial support to which they are entitled.

We continue to strongly oppose the £13M crematorium at Mepal.

Other proposals raised more questions than they answered.

- 'Improve the look and feel of the city and town centres, including replacement street furniture and graffiti removal'—this will depend on how it is done (the large screens installed a couple of years ago have not been universally popular).
- 'Renew the Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy'—this is already late, and not on the forward workplan of either of the two policy committees.
- 'Work with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and partners to deliver improvements to active travel, road and rail infrastructure, including bus franchising, the BP Witchford Road Non-Motorised User (NМУ) crossing, A10 Ely to A14 improvements scheme, support local rail improvements including Soham Railway Station phase 2'—this is largely in the hands of the Combined Authority.
- 'Continue to support existing Community Land Trusts (CLTs) across the district and work with communities to establish and develop new CLTs'—the history of these across the district has been mixed, some doing good work and others more variable.
- 'Facilitate the delivery of an amphitheatre in Ely'—with no site, no planning application, no specified source of funding, it is hard to judge what this means.

- 'Encourage housing providers to improve maintenance standards in affordable housing stock in East Cambridgeshire'—see below for our comments on this proposal.

And we were surprised to see no mention of any intention to progress the Empty Homes Strategy we persuaded the ruling group to develop; or of the minimal recommendations they accepted from our motion on high street banks.

We abstained on this rather mixed bag.

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## **SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

A motion was passed at the Full Council meeting with the intention of addressing inconsistent levels of service experienced by tenants in social or affordable housing. It concluded with the following resolutions:

1. Request Officers to work with housing associations above an agreed stock threshold within the district to establish a simple six-monthly performance reporting framework covering key housing management and maintenance measures.
2. Refer this reporting to the Operational Services Committee for regular review, enabling Councillors to monitor trends, identify good practice and understand where improvement may be required.
3. Invite representatives of housing associations to attend meetings with the Council to discuss performance, challenges and improvement activity where appropriate.
4. Request Officers to explore options to strengthen tenant engagement and improve understanding of tenant experience, particularly amongst vulnerable residents and those less likely to raise concerns directly.

We proposed an amendment to try to make this a stronger and more specific motion, but our attempt to improve it was rejected. We supported it, but will continue to hold the council's ruling group to account on how they progress it.

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## **WASTE COLLECTION COMPLAINTS**

We continue to receive complaints about the way in which the new food caddies are thrown or mishandled, and about the way in which they (and the wheeled bins) are left obstructing pavements and roads. We raise these regularly with the council and will continue to press for effective action.

Lorna has also raised the issue of collection of small amounts of waste which used to be collected from some community facilities but now are not.

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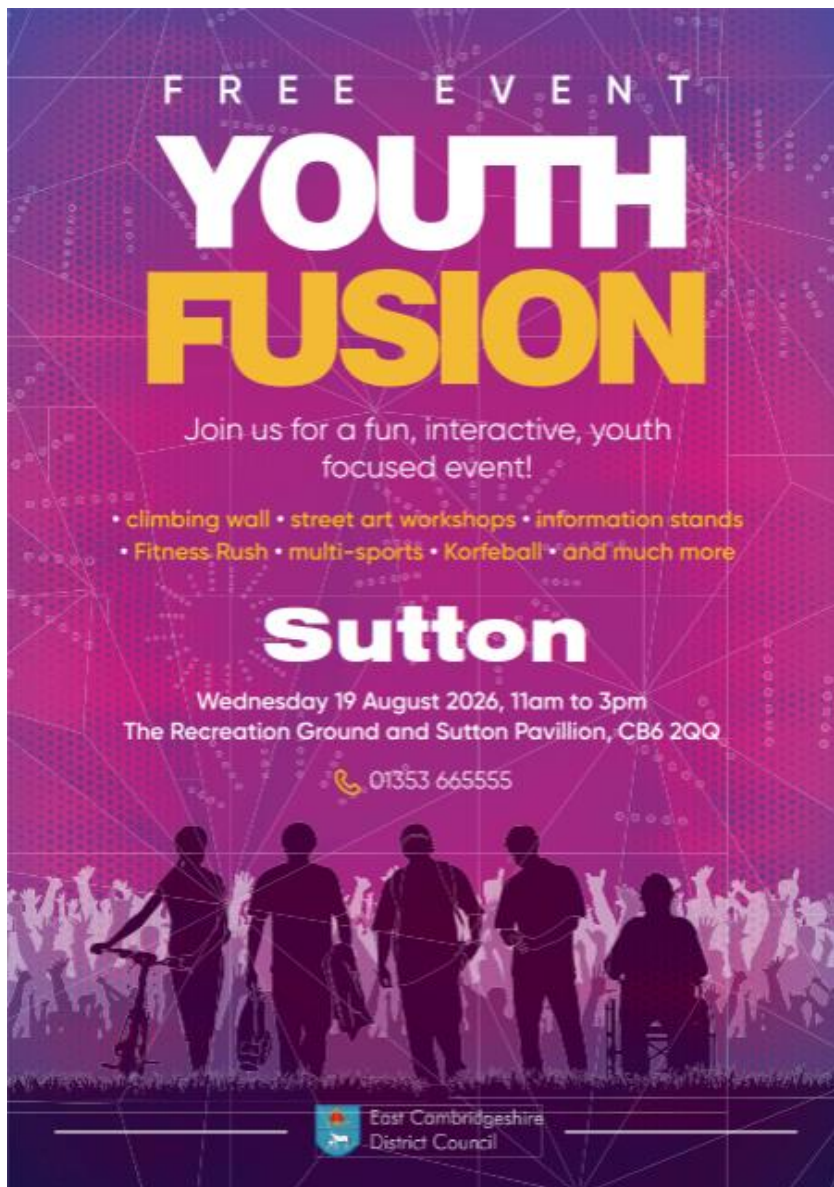
## PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER UPDATE

The council is liaising with the police as they prepare to implement the new Order against anti-social driving, and hope to have signage in place around the middle of August.

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## YOUTH FUSION

A Youth Fusion event will take place at Sutton Pavilion and Recreation Ground, on Wednesday 19 August. The event has been generously supported by Sutton Parish Council, and some of the activities taking place are being provided by local organisations offering their time and expertise.



## BUSINESS GRANT SCHEME

The Business Grant Scheme which reopened on 6 July is now fully allocated.

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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### AWAITING CONSIDERATION OR DECISION

Applications in the Sutton ward awaiting consideration or determination include

#### Mepal

- **Three Pickerels, Mepal:** single storey function room within garden area to replace temporary marquee (25/01303/FUL)
- **Arthur Rickwood, Chatteris Road, Mepal:** extension to warehouse, repositioning of septic tank, associated works and landscaping (26/00481/FUL)
- **12 Sutton Road:** single-storey porch (26/00514/FUL)

#### Sutton

- **Meadlands Farm, Sutton Gault:** replacement dwelling (25/01258/FUL)
- **17 The America:** ground mounted solar panel installation (26/00668/FUL)
- **Units 5 And 6 Elean Business Park:** change of use from storage and distribution to general industrial use (26/00642/FUM)
- **90 Bellairs:** first floor extension and single storey extension (26/00627/FUL)
- **103 High Street:** insulation and render to external walls (26/00707/FUL)
- **Land adjacent 43 Mepal Road:** signs and flagpoles for housing sales centre (26/00755/ADN)
- **95 High Street:** demolish existing bungalow and replace with new detached two-story self-build dwelling (26/00797/FUL)

### DECIDED

Applications in the Sutton ward which have recently been decided include

- **3 School Lane, Mepal:** detached 1.5 storey self-build property (26/00391/FUL) **PERMITTED**

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## AUGUST MEETINGS

- Wednesday 5 August: Planning Committee

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## MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

We will be at Joy Bistro, 65 High Street, Sutton on Monday 7 September and Monday 5 October at 6:30-7:30PM. Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email, Facebook, or phone.

### Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

District Councillors for the Sutton ward  
(Mepal, Sutton, Wentworth, and Witcham)