

# District Councillors' Report to Parish Councils November 2024

## Full Council 17 October 2024

Two motions were passed at this meeting:

- one was to increase the Council's local awareness campaign which has been underway for several weeks now, to alert those eligible for Pension Credit to apply by the deadline of 21st December 2024, to try to ensure Winter Fuel Payments still get to those most in need; to continue to encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through Council services, Anglia Revenues Partnership, and other partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in East Cambridgeshire are supported in claiming their entitlement; and to request that the Council Leader write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment.
- the other one was on the banning of sea toilets on the waterways in the District; the discharge of sea toilets is permitted by regulation on all inland waterways unless specifically banned; this Council believes that this practice should be prohibited on the Great Ouse and its tributaries, and therefore resolves to request the Environment Agency to take the necessary steps to achieve a ban.

The recommendation from the Operational Services Committee on the District Waste Strategy was approved. This will come into effect from April 2026, and in the meantime, there will be much information given to residents on the new policy.

Council unanimously agreed to create a working group in order to prepare a Local Plan (the document that defines where new housing, industrial and recreational buildings can be built within the District). Our current Local Plan is almost ten years old, and it must be replaced by an up-to-date version within two years to stop speculative building. The Administration have broken recent precedent and not made the membership 50/50 so there will be three Conservatives and just two Lib Dems working on something which will affect the District for a decade.

Two more Neighbourhood Plans were adopted in the District.

The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund will be open to applications between the 28 October to 9 December 2024. The aim of this small community grants scheme is to support local community groups to provide new or develop existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents living in East Cambridgeshire. For further information, on the link below. [East Cambridgeshire Community Fund | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/east-cambridgeshire-community-fund)

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp