

October 2026 District Councillors' report to Parish Councils

After a period of inaction at the Council two Committees have met, the Lake View Bereavement Centre (Mepal Crematorium) has been formally opened, and the Independent member on the Audit Committee has resigned.

Operational Services 14 September 2026

Not an exciting one.

- Noted that the Committee is currently projecting a year-end underspend of £114,000 on its revenue budget of £8,368,382 and a projected capital programme outturn of £9,535,966, an overspend of £289,021.
- Approved the Council's Food and Health and Safety Service Plan, but noted that it had not been updated for some time.
- Approved the Lake View Bereavement Centre aspiring towards the ICCM Charter for the Bereaved Accreditation.
- Agreed the process for monitoring affordable housing provider performance.

Finance and Assets 24 September 2026

- Concerns were raised about the errors in the ECTC annual accounts that had been signed off by the auditors.
- A sum of money that had been allocated to a Parish for capital funding was returned and it was allocated, without any competing bids as it had to be spent by end of March 2027, to ECTC (£405,000) for help with affordable housing, and to the Bereavement Centre (£373,107.60) for solar panels on the car park. It was questioned whether this was legal, and the Officer said it was.
- £400,000 of CIL money was given to Soham Town Council as a contribution to the Walter Gidney Pavilion Phase 2 expansion project.
- The Inclusive Playground Strategy and the Inclusive Playground Toolkit 2 was approved, and we had sent you the documents earlier.
- A scale of charges was approved to cover the expenses of dealing with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), in line with recent legislative changes.
- The Committee is currently forecasting an underspend of £85,000 at year-end when compared to its approved revenue budget of £8,284,422. The Council is forecasting an overall underspend of £199,000 at year-end when compared to its approved revenue budget of £21,585,345. The overall position for the Council on capital is an outturn of £13,787,601, which is an overspend of £289,021 when compared to the revised budget.

Councillors Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp