



June 2023

Welcome to East Cambridgeshire District Council's residents' newsletter. I am delighted to be joining you again as Leader of the Council after the Conservatives won the district elections on 4 May. Congratulations to all returning and newly elected Councillors both at the District Council and at our brilliant Parish Councils across the district.



As always we are focused on delivering the highest levels of service for the people and businesses of East Cambridgeshire. Over the coming months you can expect us to continue our fight against the proposed Cambridge Congestion Charge, underline our commitment for a cleaner, greener East Cambridgeshire and deliver more funding and support for community-driven projects. Our updated Environment Plan is coming to Committee this month with 20 new actions for the year and we are in the process of finalising our Corporate Plan - more information on this soon.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this new look newsletter which provides an insight into the wonderful world of East Cambridgeshire. Please feel free to share it with family, friends and colleagues and get in touch with us with your ideas and feedback.



Find your nearest Community Hub

Warm hubs which provided a lifeline to many lonely and isolated people over the winter months are to continue throughout the summer, thanks to new funding.

Under the newly created Cambridgeshire Community Hubs Network, the hubs will provide a place for residents to meet up, enjoy a cup of tea and make new friends. There will also be opportunities to access information on how to reduce bills, access financial support and stay healthy and well.

To find your nearest Community Hub visit [Cambridgeshire Acre's website](#).



Royal poetry competition winners

What would you do if you were King Charles for the day?

You can find out what the young people of East Cambs would do by reading our 20 shortlisted poems which feature in a new book that has been sent to the King to celebrate his Coronation.

Poems by Oscar Ritchie, aged nine from Ely, Archie Farthing, also nine from Dullingham

and Rowan Chadwick Redfarn, 11, from Ely were chosen as the overall winners and each received a £50 garden voucher. They impressed judges with their thoughtful and funny poems illustrated with crowns, cakes and banana milkshakes!

[You can read the poems here.](#)



Join our Month of Community

East Cambs residents are being encouraged to join in June's Month of Community with a new litter picking competition – which will also help mark King Charles III's Coronation.

East Cambridgeshire District Council has provided 22 participating Parish Councils with free litter pickers and high vis vests. Residents and groups who wish to take part in the Month of Community can borrow the equipment free of charge to help clear up their local communities and improve the area for wildlife.

The three parishes which collect the most rubbish sacks per head of population will each receive a free bench or commemorative tree to officially mark the Coronation in East Cambridgeshire.

The picture shows Burwell Community Clean Up which is one of the many groups taking part in the initiative. To find out more including a list of participating Parish Councils [click here.](#)

Help with cost of living advice



Ask our community advice team
about benefits and financial support



Do you need help with cost of living advice?

Drop into our offices at The Grange, Ely for free impartial advice on anything from how to save energy in your home and cut down on food waste, to advice on benefits and community grants.

Our community bus will also be available every week in Soham and Littleport and plans to make regular appearances at Ely Markets and at local events.

If you are not able to visit The Grange or meet the bus in Littleport or Soham you can request a personal home visit by a member of the team. To book call 01353 665555.



Proud to support Pride

We're proud to be supporting Pride month this June. Among the events taking place locally is a [Trans+ Adult Swimming Session & Fundraiser](#) at The Hive Leisure Centre in Ely, organised by the Kite Trust. We are also flying our Pride flag in Jubilee Gardens, Ely. To find out more about LGBTQ+ locally visit [Pride in Ely](#) and [The Kite Trust](#) and the [Encompass Network](#)

Community fund

Community groups are being urged to apply for grants of up to £1000 being offered by East Cambridgeshire District Council. The money can be spent on new or existing projects designed to improve the quality of life for residents.

The Friends of the Woodland Garden, based at Peacocks Meadow in Littleport, Ely Methodist Church, Care Network and Little Thetford Village Hall were all successful in applying for funds during the last round. To find out more visit the [Community Fund page](#) on our website.

More news

Head to our [Newsroom](#) to find all the latest news. Below are some highlights:



East Cambridgeshire District Council has saved nearly £800,000 by committing to pay its £2.05million contribution towards the cost of upgrading the A14 25 years ahead of schedule. Savings like this go a long way towards helping the Council keep costs like Council Tax low.

[Read more here.](#)



Soham district councillor Mark Goldsack has been elected as East Cambridgeshire District Council's new Chairman. He is pictured here (left) receiving the Chairman's medallion and a scroll from Cllr Alan Sharp, who steps down after two years as Chairman, but retains his role as Woodditton ward councillor.

[Read more here.](#)



Soham public toilets have re-opened. The Council temporarily closed the toilets on Fountain Lane following a spate of vandalism which culminated in a cleaner being verbally threatened by a gang of youths. Since then we've been working with Soham Town Council, the Police and the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership to upgrade CCTV in the area, which will be monitored by the Police, and we have issued the cleaner with a body camera.

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East Cambridgeshire
District Council

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