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**TITLE: Annual Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Committee: Finance and Assets Committee

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Author: Democratic Services Officer (Committees)

[W20]

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**1.0 ISSUE**

- 1.1 To receive the annual reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies within the responsibility of the Finance & Assets Committee.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That the annual reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies within the responsibility of the Finance & Assets Committee be noted.
- 2.2 That the vacancies on two IDBs and the process for seeking nominations be noted.

**3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution specifies in the Terms of Reference for the Finance & Assets Committee that it should appoint representatives to Outside Bodies within its remit, from the wider membership of Council, for a period of up to 4 years. In the majority of cases the most recent appointments were made at the Finance & Assets Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019.
- 3.2 Following the Committee re-structuring and subsequent amendments to the Constitution, approved at Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, the responsibility for Leisure Services moved from the Finance & Assets Committee to the Operational Services Committee. Consequently, responsibility for appointments to both the Paradise Centre Management Committee and the Soham and District Sports Association has transferred to the Operational Services Committee.
- 3.3 The list of Outside Bodies currently within the remit of the Finance & Assets Committee is attached as Appendix 1, which includes the names of the appointed representatives.
- 3.4 Attention is drawn to a number of vacancies on the Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). A vacancy on the Padnal and Waterden IDB has arisen due to the resignation of a City of Ely Councillor who held the role, and there remain three outstanding vacancies on the Cawdle Fen IDB.

3.5 Group Leaders have been consulted regarding all vacancies and no nominations were received. Therefore, in accordance with the previously-agreed process (see Appendix 2), City of Ely Council has been contacted to request nominations for all the vacancies and Littleport Parish Council has been invited to submit nominations for the Padnal and Waterden vacancy. Once received, nominations will be brought to a future meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee for consideration.

3.6 Attached as Appendix 2 are the relevant pages of the Outside Bodies Booklet which detail the aims and activities of the Outside Bodies within the remit of the Finance & Assets Committee, and the annual reports from the Council representatives.

#### 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.

4.3 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required.

#### 5.0 APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix 1: Summary of the Outside Bodies and representatives for 2021-22 under the remit of the Finance & Assets Committee.

Appendix 2: The relevant pages of the Outside Bodies Booklet which detail the aims and activities of the Outside Bodies within the remit of the Finance & Assets Committee, and the annual reports of the Council representatives.

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
None	Room 214 The Grange, Ely	Caroline Evans Democratic Services Officer (Committees) (01353) 616457 caroline.evans@eastcambs.gov.uk

**SUMMARY OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND REPRESENTATIVES 2021-22 UNDER  
THE REMIT OF THE FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE**

ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE(S)	ECDC CONTACT OFFICER
East Cambridgeshire Community Land Trust	Anna Bailey Lisa Stubbs	Director, Commercial: Emma Grima
East of England Local Government Association	Leader of Council: Anna Bailey	Chief Executive: John Hill
Local Government Association	Joshua Schumann	Chief Executive: John Hill
Local Government Association – District Councils Network	Leader of Council: Anna Bailey	Chief Executive: John Hill
Burnt Fen Internal Drainage Board	Julia Huffer Derrick Beckett ( <i>Lay Member</i> )	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Cawdle Fen Internal Drainage Board	Simon Harries Christine Whelan Rupert Moss-Eccardt Michael Rouse <b>Vacancy</b> <b>Vacancy</b> <b>Vacancy</b>	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Haddenham Level Internal Drainage Board	Gareth Wilson Steve Cheetham	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Littleport and Downham Internal Drainage Board	Christine Ambrose Smith David Ambrose Smith Lorna Dupré Jo Webber Paul Cox ( <i>Lay Member</i> ) Mark Taylor	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Middle Fen and Mere Internal Drainage Board	Ian Bovingdon Victoria Charlesworth Alec Jones Dan Schumann Derrick Beckett ( <i>Lay Member</i> )	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Padnal and Waterden Internal Drainage Board	David Ambrose Smith Lis Every Alison Whelan Paul Cox ( <i>Lay Member</i> ) Debra Jordan Sue Kerridge <b>Vacancy</b>	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Swaffham Internal Drainage Board	David Brown Lavinia Edwards Alan Sharp John Trapp	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board	David Chaplin ( <i>Lay Member</i> )	Finance Manager: Ian Smith

# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE

2021-22

(Including reports from representatives for 2020-21)

## Section 1

### ORGANISATIONS (Including 2020-21 reports)

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## **EAST CAMBS COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

### **Aims & Activities**

East Cambs Community Land Trust is incorporated to enable affordable homes to be owned and managed by an independent locally-run body that enables people to live and work locally. It is an “umbrella” Community Land Trust (CLT) and therefore covers a wider area or region than a local CLT and takes a complementary, supportive, role to any local CLTs.

Its purpose is to carry on, for the benefit of people in need (whether by virtue of poverty, financial hardship, age, physical or mental disability or ill health), in East Cambridgeshire:

- The business of providing and managing housing (including social housing) and facilitating the provision and management of such housing;
- The provision of, and facilitating the provision of, information, advice, assistance, training, support, facilities, amenities and services incidental to the provision and promotion of housing;
- The promotion of regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation in such ways as may be thought fit by the Trustees;
- Any other charitable object that can be carried out from time to time by a community land trust and which the Trustees consider would further the social, economic and environmental interest of the community in the area of benefit.

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
Up to three Members (Total of one vote irrespective of number of Members.)	3-4	Custodian Nominee Trustee

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
No	Yes

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representatives for 2020/21</b>
3	Director Commercial: Emma Grima	Cllr Lisa Stubbs Cllr Anna Bailey (appointed Dec. 2020)

### **2020/21 Report from Cllr Lisa Stubbs**

*(Attended all 11 meetings.)*

East Cambs CLT is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society, run entirely by volunteers. The Trust was established in November 2017 as an umbrella Community Land Trust (CLT) for the whole of East Cambridgeshire, working to improve the amount of affordable housing in the district.

In 2018 we delivered our first homes at King's Row in Barton Road. One was sold on a shared ownership basis, the other retained for long term affordable rent and both are occupied by local residents.

As reported at our AGM and in our year end accounts as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, East Cambs Community Land Trust has had another steady year with little change. The Trust currently owns 1 flat and part owns 1 flat at Montgomery House in Ely. The Trust is now looking for further opportunities to enable work to continue supporting local people with affordable housing.

Our next project is to provide 15 affordable shared ownership homes at the former MoD housing estate, adjacent to the Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely, comprising seven 3 bed houses and eight 2 bed apartments in a popular residential location, close to central amenities and benefit from Ely's road and rail connections between Cambridge and London.

Continued representation is worthwhile because we aim to work with communities who are interested in community led housing but do not have the desire to establish their own CLT. We manage the land and property to the benefit of the local community. This way communities can influence and have a say over their development and provide much needed affordable housing for local people.

Through the ECCLT, ECDC will be able to provide another opportunity for much needed affordable shared ownership homes for those who live and work locally.

#### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Anna Bailey

*(Attended six meetings since being appointed in December 2020.)*

East Cambs CLT is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society, run by volunteers. The Trust was established in November 2017 as an umbrella Community Land Trust (CLT) for the whole of East Cambridgeshire. The Trust works with communities who are interested in community led housing but do not have the desire to establish their own CLT. This helps to deliver ECDC's community led development policy supporting the delivery of affordable housing in the district within the Community Land Trust model.

East Cambs CLT owns and manages two affordable homes that were part of the East Cambs Trading Company's (wholly owned by East Cambs District Council) Kings Row development in Barton Road, Ely which are occupied by local people.

East Cambs CLT has been working with East Cambs Trading Company on a proposal to take on the ownership and management of 15 shared ownership affordable homes on the ex-MoD housing site in Ely.

It has been a pleasure to be involved in this organisation.

<b>Representatives for 2021/22</b>
Cllr Anna Bailey Cllr Lisa Stubbs (term ends September 2021)

## **EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

### **Aims & Activities**

- To represent the interests of local authorities in the region;
- To formulate sound policies for the development of local government in the region;
- To promote the policies of the East of England LGA and provide information/advice on local government issues to the public and partner organisations;
- To enable Councillors to exercise their democratic accountability and leadership effectively;
- To support innovation and excellence that enables local authorities and their partnerships to meet the needs of their communities and meet future challenges.

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
Leader of Council	2	Representative of ECDC

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
No	Yes

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative for 2020/21</b>
1	Chief Executive: John Hill	Cllr Anna Bailey (Leader of Council)

### **2020/21 Report from Cllr Anna Bailey**

*(No meetings notified, therefore none attended.)*

This is a member-led organisation whose core services are funded by member subscriptions from the East of England.

Core Services are a universal offer available to all subscribing members and provided free at the point of access. They include programmes of activity in priority areas, support for regional member and officer networks, a range of free events, specific helpdesk and advice services, as well as activity undertaken jointly with Trade Unions in its role as the Regional Employers Organisation.

The organisation provides support and advice to the Council, particularly adding value when in-house services are not available.

<b>Representative for 2021/22</b>
Cllr Anna Bailey (Leader of Council)



## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

### **Aims & Activities**

To support, promote and improve local government in England and Wales.

To support Councillors in their role as democratically elected local representatives.

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
One Member	1	Representative of ECDC Voting Member

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
Attendance – Yes Travel - No	No

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative for 2020/21</b>
1	Chief Executive: John Hill	Cllr Joshua Schumann

2020/21 Report from Cllr Schumann

*(Not received.)*

<b>Representative for 2021/22</b>
Cllr Joshua Schumann

## **LGA – DISTRICT COUNCILS’ NETWORK**

### **Aims & Activities**

- To lobby and negotiate directly with senior members of national political parties on district-specific needs and issues – the “localism” agenda;
- To inform and influence national agencies, government departments and other local authority agencies on things that matter, such as resources and allocation;
- To get the Network’s unique message across to the audiences that matter – people, Government, partners, regulators;
- Help each other to remain effective and share learning/good practice.

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
Leader of Council	4	Representative of ECDC

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
No	No

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative for 2020/21</b>
1	Chief Executive: John Hill	Cllr Anna Bailey (Leader of Council)

### **2020/21 Report from Cllr Bailey**

*(~20 meetings held including conference calls, seminars and meetings; attended almost all.)*

The District Councils’ Network (DCN) is a cross-party member-led network of 180 district councils. It is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA), and provides a single voice for all district councils within the Local Government Association. Being a member of the network supports the work of the organisation, provides valuable information and data to the Council and facilitates networking, helping the Council to lobby Government and fulfil its statutory and non-statutory activities.

The DCN has been particularly pro-active during the Covid 19 pandemic, convening meetings with Government Ministers and Leaders of its Member Councils, providing a single voice to Government and making the case for funding and powers to be given to District Councils. Topics have been wide ranging covering most aspects of the functions of District Councils. This organisation has been an incredibly effective conduit for District Councils and central Government, particularly in relation to dealings with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; it has meant that District Councils have had a strong and united voice throughout the pandemic, and that Government has listened carefully to our feedback and evidence and responded quickly and comprehensively throughout the pandemic. Thanks to DCN for all its hard work throughout the last year.

<b>Representative for 2021/22</b>
Cllr Anna Bailey (Leader of Council)

## Section 2

### INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS (Including 2020-21 reports)

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Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are public bodies that manage water levels in areas where there is a special need for drainage. They reduce flood risk to people and property and they manage water levels for agricultural and environmental needs. IDBs are funded by a combination of drainage rates levied on the owners of farmland, and special levies on District and Unitary Councils. District Councils appoint representatives to IDBs, the number of representatives being determined by the IDBs by consideration of the percentage of the Board's income being paid by each Council.

Haddenham Level IDB is part of the Middle Level Commissioners, all other IDBs on which ECDC is represented are part of the Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards.

Appointment of ECDC representatives to Internal Drainage Boards has been discussed at various Council and Committee meetings<sup>1</sup> and the following process has been agreed:

1. Nominations should be invited from the Members of Council.
2. If vacancies cannot all be filled from within the District Council then;
  - a. former District Councillors who are willing to continue in their IDB role could be nominated as a layperson, and;
  - b. the relevant Parish Council(s) should be invited to submit nominations.

If there are more nominations than vacancies then consideration should be given to the candidates' prior knowledge and experience of both the geographical area and the issues relevant to IDBs. In all cases, the final decision on each appointment rests with the Finance & Assets Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Resources & Finance Committee: 29 March 2018 (Agenda Item 11, Minute 94); 26 July 2018 (Agenda Item 12, Minute 35).  
Council: 19 April 2018 (Agenda Item 10, Minute 89).  
Finance & Assets Committee: 20 June 2019 (Agenda Item 13, Minute 17); 26 September 2019 (Agenda Item 18, Minute 56).

## **BURNT FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered</b>	<b>Parish Councils covered</b>
Ely North Littleport	City of Ely Council Littleport Parish Council

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
Two Members	3	Board Member

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
No, paid by the Council	Yes

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative(s) for 2020/21</b>
3	Finance Manager, Ian Smith	Cllr Julia Huffer Derrick Beckett (lay member)

### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Julia Huffer

*(Attended one of two meetings.)*

The IDB ensures the continued management of the water supply to the farming industry in our district. This body continues to do excellent work in our District. They are extremely well run and managed and I recommend our continued support.

### 2020/21 Report from Derrick Beckett

*(Not received.)*

<b>Representative(s) for 2021/22</b>
Cllr Julia Huffer Derrick Beckett (lay member)

## **CAWDLE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered</b>		<b>Parish Councils covered</b>	
Ely West		City of Ely Council	
<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>	
Seven Members	3	Board Member	
<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>		<b>Insurance Provision</b>	
No, paid by the Council		Yes	
<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative(s) for 2020/21</b>	
3	Finance Manager, Ian Smith	Cllr Christine Whelan Cllr Simon Harries Parish Cllr Michael Rouse Rupert Moss-Eccardt 3 x Vacancy	

### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Christine Whelan

*(Attended two of three meetings.)*

Specific items discussed have been:

Increased use of pumping station and the increase water in the last year due to there being a higher rainfall than expected. This was beneficial in establishing the problems there may be at a later date when considering planning applications.

Water voles and their increase in the area.

Health and safety requirements on lone working and procedures in place for this.

Continued representation is important because it is an important part of the area due to the wet areas around the fens. It is important to understand the problems of drainage in the area and what the benefits are.

These meetings have all been virtual and a later start time for the meetings would help the increase of membership to the board. Most of these start at 2.30pm and can be quite short in duration. Keeping these as a virtual meeting would also be more beneficial than travelling to the board meeting for a very short meeting. One of the meetings I attended lasted 20 minutes.

### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Simon Harries

*(Attended one meeting.)*

Provides an important component of the conservation and environmental aspects of the Council's objectives. As with the other drainage boards, this organisation maintains water

levels, is able to raise concerns and provide alerts if water quality or quantities moves outside normal levels, and enables a (or the) key business of the District to be conducted effectively- namely farming.

I was able to take part in only one of the two scheduled meetings of the board. I regret missing the second of these but there was a clash with a long-arranged business commitment that I was unable to change.

I learned a great deal about the historical significance of drainage boards in general and about the ways in which the operations of the board provide insights to key environmental indicators. In my opinion, the ability to keep a close eye on how water levels move, and what this tells us about the health of the environment, is critically important.

Personally, I learned more about farming culture and priorities than I have ever known, and this was a much-needed insight to the ways in which the district operates.

Continued representation is important because, as stated above, the council is now fully committed to a range of environmental actions and policies which will become more challenging and more important to the life of the district and its people in the years ahead.

Membership of drainage boards provides essential insights and early warning of issues in a way that nothing else can do.

It also enables better mutual understanding between council members, especially those- like myself- who have no background in farming, and the people who dominate the boards, who are for the most part farmers of long-standing in the district.

I appreciate the professionalism and commitment of the small but able staff, especially the engineers who keep the board operating effectively.

I have some reservations about the ways in which local landowners tend to assume that the board operates for their own interests above any other factor.

The boards contribute to environmental health for every inhabitant of the district. I would like to see more participation and oversight, not less, from “ordinary” members of the council.

#### 2020/21 Report from Rupert Moss-Eccardt

*(Attended all three meetings.)*

Water management is essential to support food production, protect property and underpin the local economy:-

- The CPIER report alludes to significant GVA benefit from flood protection schemes. A recent modelling exercise for the Great Ouse fens predicts 7-10 £bn of damage in the event of a significant flood control failure.
- Many planning applications are only successful because, even though they are in Flood Zone 3, the site is protected by flood defences.
- SUDSs only work if there is somewhere for the final outflow to go. IDBs move that water from catchwater drains through to the main river.
- Finally, if the IDBs didn't provide a path for water to be abstracted, the local agricultural economy would fail.

The rate has been adjusted. This has an effect on the levy.

The rainfall in 2020/21 was abnormal. Without pumping by the IDB a significant part of Ely business would have been lost (Angel Drove).

The Rivers Authorities and Land Drainage has passed recently. It may result, in the gift of the DEFRA SoS to change the basis for valuation for both agricultural and other land.

The IDBs spend a significant amount of money raised by the District. Appointment of Board members by 'charging authorities' is required by statute and the number of such appointed members is determined by the same Act – The Land Drainage Act 1991.

However the Act requires regard to:

...the desirability of appointing a person who—

(a)has knowledge or experience (including knowledge of the internal drainage district in question or commercial experience) of some matter relevant to the functions of the board; and

(b)has shown capacity in such a matter.

Which is partly, I hope, why I have been appointed.

I am very grateful to continue to be appointed by the District Council and honoured to have this opportunity to aid with the governance, effectiveness and representation of the Board.

I plan to use my experience in Cyber-resilience, fraud prevention and broader engineering knowledge to help the IDB make further progress in the next period, if my appointment continues.

#### 2020/21 Report from Parish Cllr Michael Rouse

*(Attended all three meetings.)*

I enjoy being one of the Council's representatives on the Cawdle Fen IDB. It is the smallest in the group and well managed. It is prudent and never budgets for more than is necessary for its efficient operation. Like all IDBs its primary concern is water management which is essential for food production and the prevention of flooding. The appointment of council reps is very much appreciated by the other board members.

<b>Representative(s) for 2021/22</b>
Cllr Christine Whelan Cllr Simon Harries Parish Cllr Michael Rouse Rupert Moss-Eccardt <b>3 x vacancy</b>

## **HADDENHAM LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered</b>	<b>Parish Councils covered</b>
Haddenham Stretham Sutton	Haddenham Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Sutton Parish Council Wentworth Parish Council Wilburton Parish Council

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
Two Members	3	Board Member

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
No, paid by the Council	Yes

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative(s) for 2020/21</b>
3	Finance Manager, Ian Smith	Cllr Gareth Wilson Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham

### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Gareth Wilson

*(Not received.)*

### 2020/21 Report from Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham

*(Attended all four meetings.)*

ECDC are committed to ensuring that East Cambridgeshire continues to be a district where people want to live, work and visit and ensuring flood defences are maintained is a critical element of this commitment.

Proposed construction of irrigation reservation reservoirs at Willow Hall Farm, Haddenham has continued with objections being raised by the HIDB on the planning application and potential implications for East Cambs. This is due to be discussed at the County Council on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and HIDB is continuing to object to this proposal.

HIDB have raised concerns on the amount of seepage coming through or under the 100 ft river bank, which this year has caused more surface water on land than we have seen before, and the refusal of the Environment Agency to acknowledge the benefit of dredging, and carry it out.

A meeting had been planned for discussion with Lucy Frazer for the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020 this will now be rescheduled to ensure the HIDB concerns are understood and raised at the highest political level.

This is a precepting body with the duty of protecting the Haddenham & Aldreth area from flooding and providing irrigation for agriculture and the meetings give a real insight into issues affecting farming and agriculture. The 2020/2021 winter has seen significant levels of rainfall which



impacted East Cambs and it is critical that the knowledge of the issues in detail from the HIDB are understood by ECDC.

<p><b>Representative(s) for 2021/22</b></p>
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<p>Cllr Gareth Wilson Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham</p>
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## **LITTLEPORT & DOWNHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered</b>	<b>Town/Parish Councils covered</b>
Downham Villages Ely North Littleport Stretham Sutton	Coveney Parish Council Little Downham Parish Council Little Thetford Parish Council Littleport Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Wentworth Parish Council Wilburton Parish Council Witchford Parish Council

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
Six Members	3	Board Member

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
No, paid by the Council	Yes

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative(s) for 2020/21</b>
3	Finance Manager, Ian Smith	Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Lorna Dupré Cllr Jo Webber Paul Cox (lay member) Parish Cllr Mark Taylor

### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith

*(Attended all meetings.)*

We are an expanding community and the additional water generated by new homes has to be dealt with satisfactorily. We are experiencing Climate change with more extreme and unpredictable weather conditions, With the other water & flood authorities, the local drainage boards have to play their part in order to keep our residents safe. Living in an area dominated by agriculture, the management by local drainage boards are of paramount importance in ensuring that water & infrastructure is managed to ensure that crops are able to be grown in optimum conditions.

A survey of all locations coming under the remit of the drainage board is currently underway with a view to improving the mapping and identification of each location and noting current condition. This will enable work to be carried out for improvements where necessary. Some of the infrastructure is old and consideration will be given to improve & replace elements requiring attention. This is a considerable piece of necessary work and is being ably led by the Drainage Engineer & the Chairman of the Board. Once the mapping project is completed and urgent work undertaken, revised annual maintenance schedules will be put in place. This work will play its part in safeguarding residents & business.

Continued representation on this Outside Body is worthwhile because, although as members representing the council we are laypersons, we are able to begin to understand how important the IDB's are to the area. We are also able to offer an overview of matters from a different perspective from the Farming members of the Board.

The Drainage Engineer is an experienced and able officer, the Chairman of the Board leads from the front and is supported by the knowledgeable members of the board who represent the local farming industry.

#### 2020/21 Report from Cllr David Ambrose Smith

*(Attended most meetings.)*

IDB's are extremely important partners. ECDC planners work closely with the IDB's and value one another's contribution to the planning process. IDB's praiseworthy concerns regarding increasing their charges perhaps constrains them from carrying out more medium to long term planning.

Continued representation is worthwhile because it gives an understanding of the importance of Internal Drainage Boards within our District and the necessity of keeping drainage infrastructure in good order.

The record amount of rainfall in December highlighted system maintenance issues across the drainage boards, I joined an IDB-led working party to help identify ways to overcome these problems for the future.

I believe that all our local IDB's should be amalgamated into a single board which would bring efficiencies at all levels from governance to the water courses. ECDC councillors/representation of one possibly two councillors on this single board would then give ECDC a better joined up understanding of the whole area.

#### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Lorna Dupré

*(Attended two of three meetings.)*

The work of the IDB aligns with the need for the Council to address the Climate Emergency and other environmental priorities.

The focus of the IDB in recent months has of course been on the flood events between Christmas and New Year. Members of the IDB had a thorough discussion of these events at their February meeting, including receiving an explanation of technical problems with the diesel pump and one of the three electric pumps at the Hundred Foot Pumping Station, which were in the process of being resolved. IDB members also discussed how maintenance of its watercourses could be improved.

Continues representation on this Outside Body is worthwhile because management of water (scarcity in some parts of Cambridgeshire, flood risk in others including the Littleport and Downham area) will continue to be a major challenge for the foreseeable future. The ongoing work of the Environment Agency with its bank raising project, the recent report by MPs on the EFRA Committee on addressing flood risk, and the interim recommendations of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Climate Commission are just a few

examples of the work that is ongoing to address water management issues, which is why membership of local IDBs continues to be important.

The IDB has adapted well to the use of Zoom for virtual meetings over the last year.

#### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Jo Webber

*(Attended all meetings.)*

The internal drainage boards play a vital role in keeping East Cambridge free from flooding, and supporting our agricultural industry by maintaining drainage channels, and providing irrigation services throughout the drier months.

Additionally, the IDBs play an important role in the environment, by maintaining habitats for Wildlife, and are a key stakeholder in the ECDC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Ongoing maintenance of drainage channels and the reliability of equipment play a huge part in reducing the risk of flooding to both farmers fields and adjacent homes. Excess water can cause issues during the winter months, but a shortage of water for irrigation purposes can cause as many issues during the drier summer months, as it can severely impact the ability to produce crops. The IDBs are tasked with managing this situation and each meeting addresses issues as they arise, as well as planned maintenance of equipment, health and safety, training and wider issues that can impact the Board.

As the local planning authority, East Cambs DC play a key role in the overall plan to address the flood risks to our area along with the County Council as the lead flood authority, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Boards.

With the emerging ECDC Climate Change Action Plan and Strategy now in place, I think it is increasingly important that East Cambs continues to be represented on the IDBs, and for members to be aware of the issues that face both our residents and local businesses, and the funding required to mitigate those risks.

East Cambridgeshire is flat and low lying, and the Ely IDBs maintain the drainage channels and pump equipment, which supports our agricultural industry. The IDB Engineer plays a key role in considering future risk to our area of flooding, and it is vital that we continue to support their work, listen to their issues and take their concerns onboard, to ensure that East Cambridgeshire continues to be free from flooding, an area rich in wildlife and a great place to live for our residents.

#### 2020/21 Report from Paul Cox (lay member)

*(Not received.)*

#### 2020/21 Report from Parish Cllr Mark Taylor

*(Attended all meetings.)*

As a local farmer, I am representing the council on the drainage board. Providing local knowledge of the water system in this area, which is clearly needed especially considering the troubles that occurred at Christmas 2020.

There are issues with the maintenance of IDB catchwaters and drains which are badly maintained, I am trying to resolve these issues and spending a lot of time and resources to assist the drainage board and council.

Continued representation is worthwhile to establish communication and knowledge to provide safer water system for the future.

<p><b>Representative(s) for 2021/22</b></p> <p>Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Lorna Dupré Cllr Jo Webber Paul Cox (lay member) Parish Cllr Mark Taylor</p>
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## **MIDDLE FEN & MERE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered</b>	<b>Town/Parish Councils covered</b>
Ely East Ely North Fordham & Isleham Soham North Soham South	City of Ely Council Fordham Parish Council Isleham Parish Council Soham Town Council Wicken Parish Council

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
Five Members	3	Board Member

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
No, paid by the Council	Yes

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative(s) for 2020/21</b>
3	Finance Manager, Ian Smith	Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Victoria Charlesworth Cllr Alec Jones Cllr Dan Schumann Derrick Beckett (lay member)

### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Ian Bovingdon

*(Attended 1 of 2 meetings.)*

This board does important work, by protecting agriculture and enforcing correct drainage rules and procedures. Flood defences are maintained and close scrutiny is undertaken of new residential and commercial developments to ensure that they can be delivered without negative impact on flooding locally. This work fits with ECDC's commitment that the District continues to be an area where people want to live, businesses want to grow and people to visit. The main focus is on water management.

Several issues are discussed, including Flood Warden schemes, all of which have an impact on agriculture, ecology and new developments. An important issue in the present and future of the fens, discussing the need for possible pumping stations. Discussions re Covid-19 issues were also discussed as this affects the effectiveness of their workforce. Much of the IDB's work will have an effect on ECDC's plans for future housing development.

Continued representation is worthwhile because this is a very important body protecting the local area from the risk of flooding together with managing irrigation for agriculture. The IDB has a real understanding of the complex issues surrounding development and infrastructure impact on flooding and need to be supported in light of increasing threats from flooding affected by climate changes.

They are producing a conservation document.

There are requirements for more members on the board.

Plans are underway looking forward 50+ years.

They are in constant contact with the E.A. re issues particularly with pumping station issues. December 2020 was one of the wettest in a while which is why pumping stations were pushed to their limits.

2020/21 Report from Cllr Victoria Charlesworth

*(Not received.)*

2020/21 Report from Cllr Alec Jones

*(Attended three of three meetings.)*

This organisation fits in with ECDC's Corporate Plan by ensuring the continued management of the water supply to the farming industry in the District, supplying the many farms and related industries in our area.

Water requirements have increased and large scale alterations to depth of main drainage are being considered. Such large infrastructure improvements need to be managed carefully and work in partnership with Local Government to reduce the impact to businesses.

While there is little direct relevance in the day to day dealings, its relevance to local agricultural business is immense and maintain the links between business and Local Authorities makes this a worthwhile commitment.

2020/21 Report from Cllr Dan Schumann

*(Attended no meetings.)*

The work of the IDB provides essential flood protection for the District and is fundamental to our local agriculture.

This is a key organisation that ECDC need to work with in terms of infrastructure.

2020/21 Report from Derrick Beckett (lay member)

*(Not received.)*

<p><b>Representative(s) for 2021/22</b></p> <p>Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Victoria Charlesworth Cllr Alec Jones Cllr Dan Schumann Derrick Beckett (lay member)</p>
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## **PADNAL & WATERDEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered</b>		<b>Town/Parish Councils covered</b>	
Ely North Littleport		City of Ely Council Littleport Parish Council	
<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>	
Seven Members	3	Board Member	
<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>		<b>Insurance Provision</b>	
No, paid by the Council		Yes	
<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative(s) for 2020/21</b>	
3	Finance Manager, Ian Smith	Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Lis Every Cllr Alison Whelan Paul Cox (lay member) Parish Cllr Edward Carlsson Browne Debra Jordan Sue Kerridge	

### 2020/21 Report from Cllr David Ambrose Smith

*(Attended most meetings.)*

IDB's are extremely important partners. ECDC planners work closely with the IDB's and value one another's contribution to the planning process. IDB's praiseworthy concerns regarding increasing their charges perhaps constrains them from carrying out more medium to long term planning.

Continued representation is worthwhile because it gives an understanding of the importance of Internal Drainage Boards within our District and the necessity of keeping drainage infrastructure in good order.

The record amount of rainfall in December highlighted system maintenance issues across the drainage boards, I joined a IDB led working party to help identify ways to overcome these problems for the future.

I believe that all our local IDB's should be amalgamated into a single board which would bring efficiencies at all levels from governance to the water courses. ECDC councillors/representation of one possibly two councillors on this single board would then give ECDC a better joined up understanding of the whole area.



#### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Lis Every

*(Attended three of four meetings.)*

The internal drainage board (IDB) is the operating authority which is established in areas of special drainage need in England and Wales, eg the Fens, with permissive powers to undertake work to secure clean water drainage and water level management within drainage districts. It also has the authority to add a levy to the Council Tax. Internal Draining Boards are a statutory consultee for all Planning Applications. In this area, which seeks growth, the work of the IDB is a very important organisation which has representatives from local farmers and councillor representatives from ECDC.

As seen above, the work undertaken by the IDB is vital for the area, ensuring that there is no flood activity, that the relevant maintenance is undertaken, the right levels of water for irrigation are maintained and the protection of species, ie eels, is undertaken. It is a statutory consultee for all planning applications.

Continued representation is absolutely vital, ie as consultee for planning applications and an influence on the Ultimate Council Tax Levy.

#### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Alison Whelan

*(Attended two of three meetings.)*

The IDB is presently upgrading the Padnal No 1 pumping station as it is near the end of its useful life.

The IDB contracted for the clearing of the Clayway Drain, however, this caused significant destruction of wildlife areas during the spring breeding season. The IDB has learnt from this and will avoid this in future years.

Continued representation is worthwhile because the nature of the land that surrounds Ely is such that water management is crucial to avoid flooding.

Meetings have been held virtually due to the pandemic, however, the IDB acknowledged their failure to meet equality and inclusion standards due to the location of physical meetings and this will be addressed when physical meetings restart.

#### 2020/21 Report from Paul Cox (lay member)

*(Not received.)*

#### 2020/21 Report from Parish Cllr Edward Carlsson Browne

*(Not received.)*

#### 2020/21 Report from Debra Jordan

*(Not received.)*

2020/21 Report from Sue Kerridge

*(Not received.)*

**Representative(s) for 2021/22**

Cllr David Ambrose Smith

Cllr Lis Every

Cllr Alison Whelan

Paul Cox (lay member)

Debra Jordan

Sue Kerridge

**Vacancy**

## **SWAFFHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered</b>	<b>Town/Parish Councils covered</b>
Bottisham Burwell Fordham & Isleham Soham South	Bottisham Parish Council Burwell Parish Council Fordham Parish Council Lode Parish Council Reach Parish Council Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council Swaffham Prior Parish Council Wicken Parish Council

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
Four* Members	3	Board Member

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
No, paid by the Council	Yes

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative(s) for 2020/21</b>
3	Finance Manager, Ian Smith	Cllr David Brown Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Alan Sharp Cllr John Trapp

\* Four Councillors plus one nominee jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). SCDC makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990 whereby East Cambridgeshire District Council makes the joint appointment to Waterbeach Level IDB. Appointments are for 3 years.

### **2020/21 Report from Cllr David Brown**

*(Attended two of three meetings.)*

The IDB plays a crucial role in managing/maintaining watercourses in the area within budgetary limits. This work fits well with the corporate priorities of: Sound Financial Management; Cleaner, Greener East Cambridgeshire; and Social and Community Infrastructure.

Specific items considered and of relevance to ECDC include Budget and Precept Setting, consultation responses to Planning Applications within the area.

Continued representation is worthwhile because it is important to have elected members on the IDB to monitor and advise on relevant issues.

#### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Lavinia Edwards

*(Attended all three meetings.)*

The work of the IDB fits in with East Cambridgeshire District Council's corporate objectives to ensure and maintain the large area of drainage network in the District. The District has a large agricultural element with much employment in this field. They are also a consultee for Planning Applications.

Items discussed and considered are setting the levy for the next financial year, climate change, flood, land management and ecology.

Continued representation is important on IDBs because IDBs are in receipt of public funds and is important that the District Council are involved in any financial decisions.

#### 2020/21 Report from Cllr Alan Sharp

*(Attended three of three meetings.)*

The Swaffham Internal Drainage Board is especially important to the residents of East Cambridgeshire, as the recent wet winters and long dry spells have increased the need for good water management, which the Drainage Boards provide.

The meetings normally cover details of Engineering reports, as well as the financial results and budget of the Board.

There is a need for continued representation on the Board because the management of the Fens and its water resources are vital for residents to manage the many issues and challenges that Climate Change brings.

#### 2020/21 Report from Cllr John Trapp

*(Attended two of three meetings.)*

The work of the IDB is crucial to keep the area from flooding. Specific items considered have been: maintenance of pumping stations, cleaning of ditches and sluices.

Continued representation is worthwhile because it gives an external and independent verification of its actions and decisions for the good of our residents.

Although meetings are short, and fortunately now on Zoom, they are well-managed and chaired.

<b>Representative(s) for 2021/22</b>
Cllr David Brown Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Alan Sharp Cllr John Trapp

## **WATERBEACH LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

<b>District Wards covered</b>	<b>Town/Parish Councils covered</b>
Stretham Soham South	Little Thetford Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Wicken Parish Council

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Meetings per year</b>	<b>Status of Member</b>
One* Member	3	Board Member

<b>Expenses paid by Organisation</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
No, paid by the Council	Yes

<b>Category of Officer Support</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Representative(s) for 2020/21</b>
3	Finance Manager, Ian Smith	David Chaplin (lay member)

\* One Councillor jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). East Cambridgeshire District Council makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990 whereby SCDC makes the joint appointment to Swaffham IDB. Appointments are for 3 years.

### 2020/21 Report from David Chaplin (lay member)

*(Not received.)*

<b>Representative(s) for 2021/22</b>
David Chaplin (lay member)

## District Boundaries for the Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards





