AGENDA ITEM NO 15 Appendix 2

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE 2022-23

(Including reports from representatives for 2021-22)

Contents

PRIORITY CATEGORY OF OFFICER SUPPORT

- 1. Nominated officers to provide Members with regular support on a proactive basis, and attend meetings where appropriate (including those outside bodies where officers attend at present).
- 2. Nominated officers to provide ad hoc support on specific agenda issues and act as a contact for feedback and implementation of action points. The onus will be on the Member to contact the nominated officer to facilitate these arrangements.
- 3. Members should liaise directly with Democratic Services (Committees).

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

AIMS AND 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.

	Cllr Lisa Stubbs (appointment ends at the 2022 AGM)
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Anna Bailey
Contact Officer:	Corporate Unit Manager, Sally Bonnett
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Insurance provision:	Yes
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
No. meetings per year:	3-4
Status of Member:	Custodian Nominee Trustee
Representation:	Up to three Members (total of one vote irrespective of number of Members.)

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllrs Anna Bailey and Lisa Stubbs (attended all 9 meetings)

ECCLT 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. ECCLT supports the work of the Council in promoting Community Land Trust development in the District and in securing affordable homes that help to enable people with ties to the area to live and work locally.

ECCLT owns and manages two affordable homes within Montgomery House that were part of the East Cambs Trading Company's Kings Row development in Barton Road, Ely which are occupied by local people. ECCLT also manages the Montgomery House building.

ECCLT 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.

Continued representation on this outside body is very important – the District Council has Custodian Member status and has responsibilities to the Trust in that regard. Membership also helps to pursue the stated Corporate Plan housing objectives of the Council.

This organisation facilitates the delivery of affordable homes and supports the outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan.

EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AIMS AND 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.

Representation:	Leader of Council
Status of Member:	Representative of ECDC
No. meetings per year:	1
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Chief Executive, John Hill

Representative for 2022/23: Cllr Anna Bailey

REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 1 meeting)

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 and briefings, 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.

Continued representation on this Outside Body is worthwhile; the organisation is useful to the Council in providing briefings, information, support and expertise and in representing local Government with central Government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

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

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

Representation:	One Member
Status of Member:	Representative of ECDC (voting Member)
No. meetings per year:	1
Expenses paid by organisation:	Yes (attendance only, not travel)
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Chief Executive, John Hill

Representative for 2022/23: Cllr Joshua Schumann

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Joshua Schumann

(Not received.)

LGA – DISTRICT COUNCILS NETWORK

AIMS AND 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.

Representation:	Leader of Council
Status of Member:	ECDC representative
No. meetings per year:	4
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Chief Executive, John Hill

Representatives for 2022/23: Cllr Anna Bailey

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 1 meeting)

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.

Over the last two years the DCN has been particularly pro-active during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more latterly on housing policy, 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.

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

Page no.

Burnt Fen	8
Cawdle Fen	9
Haddenham Level	11
Littleport and Downham	13
Middle Fen and Mere	16
Padnal and Waterden	18
Swaffham	21
Waterbeach Level	23

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 meetings¹ 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.

¹ 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

District Wards covered:	Ely North Littleport
Parish Councils covered:	City of Ely Council Littleport Parish Council
Representation:	Two Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by the Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Julia Huffer
	Derrick Beckett (Lay Member)

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Julia Huffer (attended 3 of 4 meetings)

The IDB continues to perform vital work in maintaining and regulating the drainage systems throughout the District. It is an extremely well-run organisation, who carry out vital work to support our farmers and protect our residents from flooding.

Support for this organisation should continue.

Derrick Beckett

(Not received.)

CAWDLE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Ely West
Parish Councils covered:	City of Ely Council
Representation:	Seven Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	CIIr Simon Harries
	Cllr Christine Whelan
	Parish Cllr Ian Lindsay
	Rupert Moss-Eccardt
	[3 Vacancies]

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Simon Harries (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

This is one of the many drainage boards that have kept the fenland areas of Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire not just prosperous as important farming areas but habitable at all. It is hard to think of a more important reason for supporting this organisation: it is basic necessity.

The Board also has an important connection to the Council's environmental policies. Though not directly guided by or dependent on these policies it is a key ally. I do not think we can achieve environmental improvement without close collaboration with the drainage boards.

I think it is essential for the Council to stay as closely connected as possible with the drainage boards, not just as a matter of common sense but for two very specific reasons.

- 1st, the risk of flooding is growing fast and every year becomes more urgent and troubling. We recognise that there will need to be large-scale investment at central government level in order to save the fens for the long term as habitable space, but the drainage boards are vital partners in delivering such policies.
- 2nd, in a rural area such as this, drainage boards amplify the voice and influence of the agricultural community, which otherwise risks being slightly marginalised, especially as demographic change alters the character of the area. It is not possible to

understand the importance of farming priorities and preoccupations except by participating in discussions within a forum of this kind, where the reality of how the natural world shapes our lives is unmistakably clear.

Water management, travel and transport, agriculture, environment, future strategic planning, cost and finance, tourism, and landscape and leisure are all relevant to the Council and have been discussed by the drainage board.

Cllr Christine Whelan (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

It gives ECDC and Parish councils an insight into the work that is done by the drainage board and the importance of keeping the Fens well drained to avoid flooding in the area.

Representation to the board is worthwhile and although I haven't been able to attend many meetings this year getting the reports through has been useful.

I highlighted in my last report about the timings of the meetings but there is no possibility of changing these unfortunately. Moving forward however I am hoping to be able to attend more meetings in the future.

Parish Cllr Ian Lindsay (appointed 22nd July 2021)

(Not received.)

Rupert Moss-Eccardt (attended all 3 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 £7-10bn 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.

So, the work of the IDB is essential for the continued existence of East Cambs.

As this is a body that raises a levy against ECDC it is incumbent on ECDC to utilise its scrutiny and management power to meet its obligations to ensure the money is spent properly.

The Environment Act opens the door for the Special Levy to be changed. Nominated Members will ensure that any change is well-considered.

The IDB has considered some planning applications where there is the need to manage runoff. It has also considered enhancement of bio-diversity.

HADDENHAM LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Haddenham Stretham Sutton
Parish Councils covered:	Haddenham Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Sutton Parish Council Wentworth Parish Council Wilburton Parish Council
Representation:	Two Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Gareth Wilson (Lead Member)
	Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Gareth Wilson (attended 1 of 2 meetings)

Through the operation, maintenance and improvement of watercourses and other water control assets within the District, the Board seeks to achieve a general standard of water level management that enables the drainage and irrigation of agricultural land, reduces flood risk to developed areas, and sustains environmental features throughout the District. Much of the Board's watercourse maintenance work constitutes vegetation control and desilting and is often a vital and routine requirement.

The following outlines the key details of the District:

- Total area of the drainage district: 3035 ha
- Catchment area draining to and including the District: 4360 ha
- Area of agricultural land: 2995 ha
- Area of other (non-agricultural) land including residential and commercial property: 40 ha
- It maintains 30km of watercourses and has 2 pumping stations
- It is consulted on relevant planning applications

• The commissioners precept on EDC for the area of non-agricultural land and charge a rate of 38p on the owners of the agricultural land.

Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham (attended all 4 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.

Continued work on the 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 application has now been approved by the County Council. However, the HIDB will monitor the development of the reservoirs accordingly.

HIDB have raised concerns on the amount of seepage coming through or under the 100 ft riverbank, 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 is now being rescheduled for discussion with Lucy Frazer 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 2021/2022 winter has seen lower levels of rainfall than the rain which impacted East Cambs 2020/21, but it continues to be critical that the knowledge of the issues in detail from the HIDB are understood by ECDC.

LITTLEPORT & DOWNHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Downham Villages Ely North Littleport Stretham Sutton
Parish Councils covered:	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
Representation:	Six Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr David Ambrose Smith
	Clir Lorna Dupré
	Clir Jo Webber
	Parish Cllr Mark Taylor
	[1 Vacancy]

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith (attended 3 meetings)

IDBs carry out essential work to avoid flooding across the district and are an integral body within local Climate Change planning. Working closely with the farming community, sufficient water is made available to aid the growing of crops and to avoid flooding issues which would otherwise cause considerable damage to agriculture. Much work needs to be constantly carried out to ensure that the drainage infrastructure remains fit for purpose. The increase in housing across the District does pose additional challenges regarding potential flooding and

every planning application is reviewed by the IDBs as consultees. The IDBs also need to be mindful of wildlife habitats and the regulations in place around these.

Close involvement by councillor representatives is essential in order to be aware of potential flooding issues which could result in serious harm to both residents and local businesses. It is important to also to understand the large level of funding required in order that current standards are maintained and the cost of potential improvements.

The recent reported damage to the local riverbed caused by the dredging up of clay caused considerable alarm and prompted investigations to be made to assess the situation. The progress of ongoing work, managing the workforce, the machinery, consideration of training requirements and the manner of mapping and recording the territory are dealt with in a timely manner.

Cllr David Ambrose Smith

IDBs are extremely important partners. ECDC planners work closely with the IDBs and value one another's contribution to the planning process. IDBs 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.

I believe that all our local IDBs 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.

Cllr Lorna Dupré (attended 4 meetings)

The work of the Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board is key to the provision and maintenance of flood and drainage infrastructure in this part of East Cambridgeshire, and to the environment of the District. Continued representation on this Outside Body is very worthwhile, indeed arguably never more important than now, in the context of the effects of the climate emergency, and the large number of emerging strategic water projects in the fens.

The IDB, like many other organisations concerned with flood, water, and drainage, has continued to work through its response to the flood events of Winter 2020. This has included inspecting 300km of watercourses, initiating a study funded by the Environment Agency on improving catchwaters across the South Level including Haddenham Level IDB, reviewing and replacing equipment at the Hundred Foot pumping station, and trialling digital mapping.

The IDB has also played a significant role in investigating materials taken from the Hundred Foot during Environment Agency de-silting works in Autumn 2021. Local concerns were raised about the material being dredged from the river, and both the IDB (funded by the District Council) and the Environment Agency took samples of the arisings in December 2021 for analysis. Work is ongoing to interpret and further consider the findings.

The Lead Local Flood Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council) has now published an updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in consultation with the IDBs, and work is expected to begin shortly on a revised Supplementary Planning Document. The Engineer

continues to play an active part in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Flood & Water Partnership.

Cllr Jo Webber (attended 2 meetings)

The internal drainage boards play a vital role in keeping East Cambridgeshire 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.

With the ECDC Climate Change Action Plan and Strategy now in place, I think it is increasingly important that East Cambs continues to work closely with 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.

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.

The potential breach of the clay bed of the Hundred Foot River, and damage to the structural integrity of the river bed has also been a cause for concern over the last year, and this has been addressed with the Environment Agency.

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.

Parish Cllr Mark Taylor (attended multiple meetings)

Representation is definitely worthwhile. I got drains being dug out that haven't been done for 20 years and new pumps fitted at pump engine. This July I have been pushing for catch waters to be cleaned out and made bigger to stop houses and businesses flooding in Littleport, which is being done. And Ely catch waters to be done next year. The whole system is been run to ruin but I have done lots of work proving what needs doing and even the dyke that stops Needhams school and the swimming pool and KFC area and been done too. I have been to a number of meetings involving the 100ft river because me and my cousin were the first to send alarms that the contractor is digging it out wrong.

MIDDLE FEN & MERE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Ely East Ely North Fordham & Isleham Soham North Soham South
Parish Councils covered:	City of Ely Council Fordham Parish Council Isleham Parish Council Soham Town Council Wicken Parish Council
Representation:	Five Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Ian Bovingdon
	Clir Mark Goldsack
	Clir Alec Jones
	Cllr Daniel Schumann
	Derrick Beckett (Lay Member)

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Ian Bovingdon (attended 2 meetings)

The Board does hugely important work which affects one of ECDC's primary industries, being agriculture, which employs many people and produces foodstuffs for the nation. The Board enforces correct drainage rules and procedures protecting the area from flooding, whilst providing water at times of drought. Close scrutiny of planning applications that may affect surface water run-off/flooding is rigidly upheld. In addition, this policy fits with ECDC's commitment that the District continues to be an area where people want to live, businesses want to grow, and people want to visit. Current issues under discussion are protection of the fens for agriculture for the future.

Continued representation is important because it is essential to understand the important work that the IDB undertakes. This affects local employment, flooding and the environment. ECDC

can assist in many areas with rules over planning, carbon footprint and general assistance to ensure that the IDB can do its job in the area.

Items that have been discussed of specific relevance to ECDC include

- the impact of new developments on the watercourses
- the use of fuels, which may benefit ECDC's drive to be carbon neutral
- climate change issues.

Cllr Mark Goldsack (appointed 5/10/21, attended 1 meeting)

I have attended just one meet since re-election but the board is excellently chaired by M Mawby and well attended. It has plans for support of the land area it covers with direct land ownership and guardianship involved in the IDB.

Cllr Alec Jones (attended 2 meetings)

This organisation fits in with ECDC's Corporate Plan by supporting the local farming industries. It does this by ensuring the continued management of the drainage & water supply in the local area.

This is a worthwhile commitment as its relevance to local agricultural businesses is immense and it is useful to maintain the links between business and the Local Authorities.

Increasing costs, uneven rainfall patterns are part of many issues the drainage board are increasingly having to deal with. As such large infrastructure improvements need to be managed carefully and also need to work in partnership with Local Government to reduce the impact to businesses.

Cllr Daniel Schumann (attended 0 meetings)

The IDB are a key partner to ECDC. The work of the IDB fits with the Council's Corporate Objectives:

Cleaner, Greener East Cambridgeshire = Implement the Council's Environment and Climate Strategy & Action Plan

Social and Community Infrastructure = Work with the Internal Drainage boards to increase system capacity for Water Management and Flood Prevention

Derrick Beckett (lay member)

(Not received.)

PADNAL & WATERDEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered: Ely North Littleport Parish Councils covered: City of Ely Council Littleport Parish Council **Representation:** Seven Members Status of Member: **Board Member** No. meetings per year: 3 Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by Council) Insurance provision: Yes Category of Officer Support (see p. 1): 3 **Contact Officer:** Finance Manager, Ian Smith Representatives for 2022/23: **Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Lis Every CIIr Alison Whelan** Parish Cllr Debra Jordan Parish Cllr Susan Kerridge Parish Cllr Clive Webber [1 vacancy]

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr David Ambrose Smith

IDBs carry out essential work to avoid flooding across the district and are an integral body within local Climate Change planning. Working closely with the farming community, sufficient water is made available to aid the growing of crops and to avoid flooding issues which would otherwise cause considerable damage to agriculture. Much work needs to be constantly carried out to ensure that the drainage infrastructure remains fit for purpose. The increase in housing across the District does pose additional challenges regarding potential flooding and every planning application is reviewed by the IDBs as consultees. The IDBs also need to be mindful of wildlife habitats and the regulations in place around these.

Close involvement by councillor representatives is essential in order to be aware of potential flooding issues which could result in serious harm to both residents and local businesses. It is important to also to understand the large level of funding required in order that current standards are maintained and the cost of potential improvements.

The recent reported damage to the local riverbed caused by the dredging up of clay caused considerable alarm and prompted investigations to be made to assess the situation. The progress of ongoing work, managing the workforce, the machinery, consideration of training requirements and the manner of mapping and recording the territory are dealt with in a timely manner.

Cllr Lis Every (attended all 3 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.

Regular discussions take place with local farmers for whom the drainage board is vital. Discussions are based on the running of the individual IDB, but for this IDB concerns are currently being discussed about the North Ely Junction and what this will mean for the Board and also for the local farmers.

Continued representation is important because 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.

Cllr Alison Whelan (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

The nature of the land that surrounds Ely is such that water management is crucial to avoid flooding. Representation on these bodies is important to further the Council's environmental and flood prevention objectives.

The upgrading the Padnal No 1 pumping station has been discussed as it is near the end of its useful life. It was questioned whether or not it could be upgraded, however, this would require additional planning permissions.

Clearing of the Clayway Drain had caused significant destruction of wildlife areas during the spring breeding season in previous years, and public notification is now happening.

Parish Cllr Debra Jordan (attended 0 meetings)

After attending a couple of meetings, I realised that I bring no expertise or skill to the meetings and feel that I could be more of a hindrance than a help. In essence, the skilled and expert attendees of the meetings need to tailor their language and vocabulary to suit the uninitiated and thereby lengthen the process.

Parish Cllr Susan Kerridge (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

Representation on this Committee and other IDBs is required so the Council is informed concerning the risks of flooding or shortage of water in the future and can take the necessary action in advance of problems.

Parish Cllr Clive Webber (attended all 3 meetings)

I represent the Littleport Parish Council on the IDB. With flooding becoming more of a risk with climate changes, I think we all need to be aware of the important work being carried out by the IDBs, as they maintain the drainage channels that run through our parishes, and support our farmers.

I think it is very important that ALL levels of local government continue to be represented on the IDBs, as we need to be aware of the continuing threat of flooding, the actions we can take to mitigate the risks, and the costs involved.

Keeping drainage channels clean, supplying water for irrigation and increased risk of flooding have all been items recently discussed.

It is vital that East Cambs District Council work with all of the agencies that are involved in keeping the District free from flooding.

SWAFFHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Bottisham Burwell Fordham & Isleham Soham South
Parish Councils covered:	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
Representation:	Four ² Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr David Brown
	CIIr Lavinia Edwards
	Clir Alan Sharp
	Cllr John Trapp

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr David Brown (attended 2 of 4 meetings)

The work of the Internal Drainage Boards is key to the ongoing land management of East Cambridgeshire and therefore to the ability of residents and business alike to prosper. As a major preceptor it is vital that the District Council is closely involved in oversight of the IDBs and how taxpayers' money is spent. It is therefore very important that the District Council maintains continued representation on the IDBs. Decisions on spending, such as purchase

² Four Members plus one nominee jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). SCDC makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990 whereby ECDC makes the joint appointment to Waterbeach Level IDB. Appointments are for 3 years.

of new machinery are of particular relevance to ECDC, because of the preceptor status of the IDB.

Cllr Lavinia Edwards (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

The IDB plays an important role in ECDC's Corporate Objective by maintaining the drainage network in the district. There is a large agricultural element with much employment in the area and they are also a consultee for planning applications.

Continued representation is worthwhile because IDBs are in receipt of public funds and it is important that ECDC are involved in any financial decisions.

Specific items discussed and considered to be relevant to ECDC include Budget and Precept Setting, climate change and management of the fens.

Cllr Alan Sharp (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

The work of the Drainage Board totally fits in with the corporate objectives of the Council, as the issue of flooding and water management is a crucial factor in resolving the challenges that Climate Change presents to us.

I have attended one meeting during the year out of the three arranged, the other two meetings clashing with other commitments.

The Board has moved away from zoom meetings towards a return to face-to-face meetings and these take place at the Drainage Board offices in Prickwillow.

Contributing to the management of The Fens is an important role of the Council and the involvement of Council representatives with this body is totally necessary.

Cllr John Trapp (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

This board is well run, and it is very conscientious about value for money from its operations. There is scope for discussion of the issues, and helpful explanations and guidance from the chief engineer on all matters.

WATERBEACH LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered: Stretham Soham South Parish Councils covered: Little Thetford Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Wicken Parish Council One³ Member **Representation: Board Member Status of Member:** No. meetings per year: 3 Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by Council) Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):3Contact Officer:Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representative for 2022/23:

David Chaplin (lay member)

REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

David Chaplin

(Not received.)

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