

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 2023-24

(Including reports from representatives for 2022-23)

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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).

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ADULTS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

- The County Council's public health duty including health improvement, individual and community wellbeing, and reduction of health inequalities;
- To respond as appropriate to central government consultation relating to policy or legislation falling within the remit of the Committee;
- The review and scrutiny of any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health services in Cambridgeshire;
- To report to the Secretary of State for Health on any proposals for substantial change to any part of the NHS's services within Cambridgeshire.

Representation:	One Member and one Substitute
Status of Member:	Non-voting member
Approx. no. of meetings per year:	6
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	1
Contact Officer:	Environmental Services Manager, Liz Knox

Representatives for 2023/24:	tbc (Lead Member)
	tbc (Substitute)

REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Lis Every (attended 2 of 4 meetings)

The Adults and Health Committee has a statutory responsibility for Health Scrutiny of NHS commissioners and providers and non-NHS providers of NHS funding and services. The Committee can review matters and make recommendations to the NHS and other relevant organisation. A representative from each District Council sits on the Scrutiny of Health Committee which is held separate from the Adults Committee. District Councillors are there as observers and have no vote.

Over the past year, the Committee has focused on the work of the NHS Trusts, performance and quality monitoring, thematic scrutiny areas, eg the dental services, new developments, eg the new Integrated Care System and virtual wards.

ECDC has helped fund local GP services with CIL money and the development of the Princess of Wales Hospital is moving forward (Corporate Objective in Social and Community Infrastructure) Health Services, although not a statutory area for ECDC, they have a vested interest in the health of the community.

As can be seen from the above this is really relevant to ECDC and the health and well-being of our community.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The remit of the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board is to work to promote the health and wellbeing of Cambridgeshire's communities and its focus is on securing the best possible health outcomes for all residents.

The Member should provide local information to the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board, related to health and wellbeing within East Cambridgeshire and the impact (actual or potential) of any relevant policy changes, service changes, proposals, and/or identified need.

Representation:	One Member
Status of Member:	Voting member
Approx. no. of meetings per year:	4-6
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	-
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	1
Contact Officer:	Environmental Services Manager, Liz Knox
Representative for 2023/24:	tbc

REPORT FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Julia Huffer (attended 1 of 2 meetings)

The Health and well-being board continues to work across County and Districts along with Health professionals to ensure that our residents receive the best possible care.

Support for this organisation should continue.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE & CRIME PANEL

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) provides checks and balances on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The Panel does not scrutinise Cambridgeshire Constabulary; it scrutinises how the PCC carries out their statutory responsibilities. While the Panel is there to constructively challenge the PCC, it also has a key role in supporting the Commissioner in their role in enhancing public accountability of the police force.

- To review and make a report or recommendation on the draft police and crime plan, or draft variation, given to the panel by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- To review, put questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner at a public meeting, and make a report or recommendation (as necessary) on the annual report.
- To hold a confirmation hearing and review, make a report, and recommendation (as necessary) in respect of proposed senior appointments made by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- To review and make a report on the proposed appointment of the Chief Constable.
- To review and make a report and recommendation (as necessary) on the proposed precept.
- To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the commissioner's functions.
- To make reports or recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner with respect to the discharge of the commissioner's functions.
- To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- To fulfil functions in relation to complaints about conduct matters, in accordance with the responsibilities accorded to the panel by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- To appoint an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner if necessary.
- To suspend the Police and Crime Commissioner if it appears to the panel that the Commissioner has been charged in the United Kingdom or Isle of Man with an offence which carries a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years.

Representation:	One member and one substitute
Status of Member:	ECDC representative
No. meetings per year:	4
Expenses paid by organisation:	£920 per annum (maximum) from a central fund administered by Peterborough City Council
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	1
Contact Officer:	Communities and Partnerships Manager, Lewis Bage

Representatives for 2023/24:

tbc (*Lead Member*)

tbc (*Substitute*)

REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Alan Sharp (attended 3 of 4 meetings)

The Police & Crime Panel is important, as it fits into the objective of ECDC of keeping the public safe, whilst fitting in to the objective of influencing policing within our District.

The continued representation on the Police & Crime Panel is required to continue, for the interests of ECDC.

I have attended 3 of the 4 Panel meetings held.

This year, there was one less meeting than normal, as a meeting of the Panel was due to be held around the time of the Queen.

It has been a period of consolidation for the PCC and it has been a constructive period, as the PCC has consolidated his term of office.

Cllr Julia Huffer (substitute)

(Not required.)

CITIZENS ADVICE WEST SUFFOLK

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The objective of the service is to provide free, confidential, impartial and independent advice to enable local residents to deal with a wide range of issues, including benefits, housing, money advice, employment, consumer, relationships, taxation and many more. The nature of the assistance provided will depend on a client's needs and abilities.

The provision of this service requires that, at any one time, 2 to 6 advisers and 1 supervisor are on duty and 1 telephone number with 3 linked lines are available to members of the public. For face-to-face advice, offices are available at Foley House, Wellington Street, Newmarket.

The standard of service is set out in the Citizens Advice Quality Assurance Standards Membership Agreement.

Responsibility for the management of the Advice Service is vested in the Citizens Advice Trustee Board, the membership and operation of which is laid down by a constitution/Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Representation:	One Member and one Substitute
Status of Member:	ECDC representative (no decision-making powers)
No. meetings per year:	12
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	2
Contact Officer:	Communities & Partnerships Manager, Lewis Bage

Representatives for 2023/24:	tbc (<i>Lead Member</i>)
	tbc (<i>Substitute</i>)

REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Amy Starkey

(Not received.)

Cllr Alan Sharp (substitute – attended 1 of 10 meetings)

I am a substitute member of the CAB – West Suffolk trustees. I have attended one meeting during the year and the CAB is an important function within the support required for residents during the last two years.

As well as attending meetings, I attended a fundraising function for the CAB in September 2022, in a personal capacity, and had a very constructive discussion with the CEO, giving my thoughts on the value of the Bureau and listening to the comments of the organisation, who are very appreciative of the grant given by ECDC.

ECDC supports the West Suffolk CAB well in terms of grant funding and it is important that a continued presence is maintained to ensure that resident's interests are maintained.

The meetings are a mixture of zoom with a couple of face-to-face and that seems to be the way that it will continue, with maybe three face-to-face meetings a year and the rest on zoom. There have been clashes of date with other commitments, which has resulted in a lower attendance.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

- Section 6 of the 1998 Act requires the responsible authorities [commonly referred to collectively as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP)] in a local government area to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area.
- To work in partnership with other organisations and groups to implement the Strategies.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies.
- To contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of local people by improving Community Safety and reducing crime and disorder (and the fear of crime) in East Cambridgeshire.

Representation:	Two Members and two Substitutes
Status of Member:	ECDC representative. Lead Member has voting rights.
No. meetings per year:	4
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	1
Contact Officer:	Neighbourhood & Community Safety Team Leader, Emma Graves
Representatives for 2023/24:	tbc (Lead Member) tbc tbc (Substitute) tbc (Substitute)

REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Lis Every (attended all 4 meetings)

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together a number of agencies and organisations concerned with tackling and reducing crime and antisocial behaviour. Community Safety Partnerships were set up under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Some organisations, like the District Council and the Police, are statutory members, but voluntary groups and businesses are also represented and play an important role.

Our key role is to understand the kind of community safety issues East Cambridgeshire is experiencing; decide which of these are the most important to deal with; and then decide what

actions we can take collectively, adding value to the day-to-day work undertaken by our individual agencies and organisations. We detail these actions in our Community Safety Plan which we update each year.

This is organised strategically through the Partnership Board who operate a Problem Solving Group where key personnel from all the agencies and local representation including schools discuss issues concerning the above. If a solution cannot be found, it is referred to the Delivery Group which is also multi-agency where a Task and Finish Group is formed. Funding is available for the CSP through ECDC and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Currently the Task and Finish Groups working are:

- Youth Provision across District (working closely with the ECDC's Youth Strategy)
- Social and private landlord collaboration to support vulnerable families
- Mental Health provision for young people
- Local Parish Forums where there is an element of anti-social behaviour or issues that need resolving requiring a multi-agency approach

The Delivery Group also runs and funds projects, eg

- The very successful Eyes and Ears project which is now County wide
- The Drink Spiking Campaign;
- Safety on the streets campaigns;
- Road safety, security in the home, scams training

The CSP can also apply for funds to the PCCs budgets.

Earlier in the year a very successful partnership event was run showcasing the work that the CPS has been doing. It was well attended by partner and local authority representatives, other agencies and the public.

ECDC has a statutory duty to work on community safety and is a stakeholder on the Community Safety Partnership. The CSP is a valuable organisation working closely with the residents in order to make them feel and be safe and deal with issues that may arise.

All of the above are relevant to ECDC and the Partnership reports regularly to the Operational Services Committee.

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith (attended all 4 meetings)

The CSP 's work fits with ECDC's Corporate Objectives because it helps to make this district a happier, healthier & safer place to live and work.

With the participation of officers from County and District, relevant organisations such as Police, GP's, the voluntary sector, and member representation, this gives a wide spectrum of knowledge & expertise.

The CSP addresses & discusses matters of concern around anti-social behaviour, substance addiction & abuse and related criminal activities, including county lines and the introduction and involvement of young and vulnerable people into these acts. Domestic violence and the effect on children, mental health issues, modern day slavery, levels of deprivation and the effects poverty has, social prescribers,

youth activities, older peoples socialising, policing, scams – these are just some of the topics dealt with. CSP has a budget to help with these interventions, and progress is monitored and outcomes measured. A well-attended CSP Showcase Event was held in Ely Cathedral on 13 March 2023 featuring presentations by relevant organisations and stalls covering many community groups. There were opportunities for networking which is always of value.

Almost all meetings are conducted remotely by Teams which results in a better attendance, less time lost in travelling and the contribution towards the green agenda of less mileage. One cause of concern is that these meetings sometimes conflict with District Committees, held in person. Given the number of people in attendance from the wide range of organisations, this is not surprising. The CSP has been Chaired by Cllr Lis Every in an excellent, competent and very professional manner

Cllr Alan Sharp (attended 2 of 4 meetings)

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is important to ensure that the objectives of ECDC are being met and we can collaborate with partner organisations to keep the public safe.

The continued representation on the CSP is required to continue, for the interests of ECDC and its residents.

Due to clashes with other meetings, I was only able to attend two meetings of the Committee, but those two meetings were very worthwhile.

My membership fits in with my involvement with the Police & Crime Panel, where the PCC funds the CSP.

Cllr Jo Webber (substitute)

(Not required.)

HISTORIC ENGLAND – HERITAGE CHAMPION

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The historic environment includes historic buildings, landscapes, monuments, places, archaeology (including marine archaeology) and areas. The Heritage Champion will promote the local historic environment, share best practice and attend training (where appropriate).

The network of Heritage Champions across the country supports the protection of the historic environment at a local level. At a strategic level, Champions can make sure that local plans and strategies capture the contribution that the local historic environment can make to the success of an area. More specifically they can:

- Help local authorities manage the historic environment of their area;
- Promote heritage within the local community, generating enthusiasm for and awareness of the importance of the local historic environment;
- Help ensure that commitment to the proper care of the historic environment is embedded in all relevant activities and plans of the local authority;
- Support the Authority's local historic environment services (both archaeological and historic buildings conservation officers);
- Influence and communicate with others to ensure benefits for the historic environment.

Representation:	One Member
Status of Member:	Champion
No. meetings per year:	0
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	1
Contact Officer:	Conservation Officer, Christopher Partrick
Representative for 2023/24:	tbc

REPORT FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Lis Every (no formal meetings, regularly meets with Conservation Officer)

The Cambridgeshire Local Heritage Project (the 'local list'), a collaboration with the five other Cambridgeshire Districts and the County Council, is now very well-established and showing concrete results for East Cambridgeshire. The website went live for public contributions in spring 2022 and including the 90 existing sites imported from the 2017 local list, there are (as of 26/4/23) now 657 sites identified in East Cambridgeshire. There is still a considerable task ahead of 'fleshing out' the details and assessing candidates for eligibility but all 35 parishes have now had provisional assessments, which is the first time the District's local historic environment has been surveyed systematically.

The adoption process has been amended by Operational Services Committee to delegate authority to officer level, and adoptions will be rolled out on a parish-by-parish basis. It is anticipated that the first round of consultations with property owners and parish councils will start in the summer.

The expansion of the local list will enhance ECDC's ability to protect the District's built environment immeasurably but, equally important, it is a testament to the sheer variety and quality of the district's heritage. There are some wonderful buildings in East Cambridgeshire and the website is irrefutable proof. <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/cambridgeshire>

Conservation support to Fenland District Council:

ECDC responded to a call from our neighbours in Fenland when their own conservation officer left in 2022 and has been providing conservation cover on a consultancy basis since September 2022. This is a temporary arrangement pending Fenland's recruitment of a new officer, but is a concrete demonstration of ECDC's 'good neighbour' ethos.

Conservation through planning:

The development management process remains the 'coalface' of heritage protection, and absorbs the bulk of ECDC conservation effort. Staff respond to 400+ formal consultations per annum on works involving listed buildings, conservation areas, locally listed buildings and other cases requiring design expertise. The effect of this remains largely unseen but it is vindicated in ECDC's success rate in appeals: in 2022-23 seven appeals were won primarily on conservation/design grounds and two costs appeals were not upheld.

Aside from the regulatory role, ECDC continues to work proactively in the interests of the historic environment. In 2022 five war memorials were submitted for statutory listing at Historic England's request, and to date one (Lode) has been designated at Grade II.

Finally, it is especially gratifying to record that Ely Museum's successful transformation continues to gain recognition: the project won the Royal Institute of British Architects 2022 East Region design & conservation awards and has been nominated for the Civic Voice national conservation award. Regular meetings are held on the above to expand further the work that is being done.

This work is so important to support our local heritage that there are plans to create a Heritage Society bringing in all those stakeholders who have a vested interest in ensuring our heritage is looked after and enjoyed by local residents and the many tourists who come to visit these sites.

PARADISE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

- The provision of facilities for playing sports;
- The provision of opportunities for recreation, social activities and refreshment, for the benefit of its members and the public;
- The provision and maintenance of a sports and leisure centre at Paradise Ground, Ely; including selection of the centre management.

Representation:	One Member
Status of Member:	Non-voting Observer
No. meetings per year:	6
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	3
Contact Officer:	Leisure & Active Lifestyles Manager, (vacancy)

Representative for 2023/24: tbc

REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr David Ambrose Smith (attended 1 meeting)

The work of the outside body certainly fits in with ECDC's corporate objectives but I'm unsure of the need to have a ECDC representative on the committee. ECDC officers have weekly contact with the Centre management team enabling both parties to gauge whether or not they are making the best from the opportunities that may arise.

No items of specific relevance to ECDC have been discussed at meetings, as the centre management and ECDC officers have a good working relationship.

The centre is well run by a strong and very experienced manager.

Going forward it may help if the District Leisure/Sports Centres met say quarterly to compare ways of working not just day to day but look at long term planning including the decision-making / governance process of each Centre.

RECAP BOARD

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

RECAP has representation from all Districts, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The partnership was set up to enable discussion and joint decisions. By working collaboratively on both the collection and disposal of waste as well as associated areas of work, education, fly-tipping efficiencies have been realised.

The RECAP Board shall:

- act as the focus for discussion and to deliver a political perspective and steer to the scope of activities undertaken by the RECAP Partnership.
- establish and implement a process of partnership and joint working on issues included within the scope of activities, seeking consensus within the budgets delegated by the constituent Councils, whilst respecting the individual council policies and authorisations of individual members.
- investigate ways of working to deliver services provided by Partner authorities in a more economic and efficient way, including the investigation of joint procurement where applicable.
- promote data sharing of the local environmental services provided by the Partner authorities and others in order to identify best practice.
- agree and recommend to the appointing authorities, the breakdown of the financial contribution to be made by respective Councils towards the coordination and development of the work of the RECAP Partnership.
- agree an annual work programme and recognise the achievements of the RECAP Partnership by regularly reporting on progress to the Cabinets of the County Council and Peterborough City Council and to the appropriate District Council Executives.
- promote common messages and common themes to ensure a consistent approach between the Partner authorities.
- contribute to the process of public consultation and public debate in relation to the services included in the scope of activities.
- consider the impact of legislation and national policy development and to make recommendations on the implications for, and response of, Partner authorities.

Representation:	One Member
Status of Member:	ECDC representative. Decision-maker.
No. meetings per year:	4
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	1
Contact Officer:	Environmental Services Manager, Liz Knox
Representative for 2023/24:	tbc

REPORT FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Julia Huffer (attended 7 of 8 meetings)

This is a vital organisation which helps the Waste Services of all the Recap partners come together to provide the best and most efficient service to all residents. This year has been spent working on the DEFRA consultation regarding waste services.

SANCTUARY HOUSING SERVICES LTD
EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

Sanctuary Housing Services Ltd is a non-profit-making organisation providing affordable homes for rent throughout East Cambridgeshire.

The purpose of the East Cambridgeshire Committee (the Committee) is to:

- Monitor and challenge landlord services provided to Sanctuary Group tenants living within the East Cambridgeshire District Council area
- Ensure services comply with the consumer standards set by Regulator for Social Housing
- Oversee compliance with the Local Offer to Sanctuary residents within the East Cambridgeshire District Council area
- Monitor the delivery of community investment activity in the East Cambridgeshire District Council area
- Ensure services are effective, improve and continue to offer good value
- Pay due consideration to the objectives of East Cambridgeshire District Council and other key local partners
- Work with, and support, Sanctuary’s operations nationally
- Recommend improvements to the way local services, neighbourhood and community initiatives are run

Representation:	Two Members
Status of Member:	Decision-maker (limited)
Approx. no. of meetings per year:	4
Expenses paid by organisation:	Travel
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	1
Contact Officer:	Housing & Community Advice Manager, Angela Parmenter
Representatives for 2023/24:	tbc
	tbc

REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith (attended all meetings)

Sanctuary Housing hold and operate the largest number of Social Housing properties within the District. Having the opportunity to enable the largest number of residents to have a safe & secure home is of the greatest importance. This in turn contributes to the Council's aim of avoiding homelessness wherever possible.

Continued representation on this committee gives the ECDC representatives the opportunity to raise issues with the local management team, to receive regular updates, and to generally understand and discuss the challenges facing Sanctuary.

There has been concern around the number of long term void properties, which the representatives have regularly discussed. It would appear that the Sanctuary maintenance team continues to struggle to attract and retain sufficient numbers of tradesmen, including filling vacancies for apprenticeships. Turning to outside contractors has not always been the answer as those businesses suffer from similar recruitment & retention of staff problems. Materials, replacement items and spares are beginning to become easier to obtain but the prices of these are increasing in line with other goods and services, and there continues to be long lead times for some items. The long term voids tend to be properties that become available following the death of elderly tenants, or their move into care homes. These tenants have often lived for many years without requesting that remedial or upgrading work is carried out, with the result that these vacated properties need substantial renovation, thereby needing the constant attention of maintenance teams for a considerable period. Properties coming forward which need much less or minimal work are therefore prioritised to maximise their turnaround and availability.

It is essential that tenants follow the reporting process for maintenance to ensure that all information is captured at the first point of contact, and for subsequent updates. Upon taking up a tenancy, the tenant receives an information and welcome pack which details the reporting process and with information on other matters. Over time these packs become lost and forgotten and the correct process is frequently not followed. It has been suggested that a regular re-issue or reminders given to tenants could be helpful. Inevitably, maintenance personnel through the course of a working day, experience delays as some jobs will take longer than anticipated as unforeseen problems emerge. A clear line of contact with the tenant needs to be established so that tenants awaiting the arrival of a maintenance worker who is delayed, is advised and where necessary the appointment rearranged. Where tenants have perhaps taken holiday from their employers in order to be available, irritation is understandable. This of course happens within the private rented sector and owner-occupied homes across the board also. A visit by the local housing support officer is useful when councillors are contacted and should be requested. This gives the tenants the opportunity to express their dissatisfaction and for the officer to check progress of the original report. This type of intervention by a third party will often diffuse a difficult situation. Clearly there is always more work to be done around timescales for repairs and renovations.

The East Cambs representatives need to discuss these points at every meeting, and feed back to councillors when concerns are raised.

Finding that the terms of reference for Sanctuary/ECDC had lapsed, conversations around what needed to be included and agreed, in line with other areas where Sanctuary operate, took place. This fresh document was signed off and forwarded to ECDC Housing for comment/approval.

It was noted that Sanctuary have a degree of difficulty in finding Tenant Representatives (covering as wide a spectrum as possible), willing to come forward and commit to the four meetings during the year. Similar difficulty is found when identifying two Independent Persons to serve on the Board.

Sanctuary try very hard to make these meetings a useful and positive contribution and to give a voice to the concerns of its residents.

Cllr Jo Webber (attended all meetings)

Sanctuary Housing are a national housing association with a large stock of housing in East Cambridgeshire, which includes both general needs and residential care for the elderly.

ECDC have responsibility for housing services and Sanctuary Housing play a vital role in ensuring that our residents have access to suitable accommodation, which is safe and well maintained.

As the largest residential social landlord in East Cambridgeshire, I think it is crucial that a strong working relationship is maintained not only between Sanctuary Staff and ECDC Officers, but also with ward members who are representing their residents. It is important for members to gain an understanding of the processes and procedures that are in place, and how they can work with Sanctuary to support their residents in the most effective way.

Sanctuary Managers and Housing Officers work closely with the Housing Team at ECDC and have staff located alongside the Customer Services Team, so that residents can easily access support when required.

Quarterly meetings are normally held between Sanctuary management, tenant representatives, and representatives from East Cambs District Council. Until the elections in May 2023 when I stood down as a Councillor, I represented ECDC on the Committee along with Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith, and I also chaired the meetings.

After the coronavirus lockdown it was agreed that the quarterly meetings would be held via zoom, and this continued as the older members of the Committee were more reluctant to return to face-to-face meetings however, in person meetings resumed at the beginning of 2023.

One of the biggest challenges for Sanctuary housing following the Coronavirus lockdown has been the recruitment of staff and access to building materials which is a problem that has been experienced across the construction industry.

A backlog of scheduled maintenance work was created by the lockdown, but the turnaround of void properties that require major works is also a serious issue. Sanctuary are putting processes in place to reduced turnaround time to a minimum, but this will take some time. Regular discussions and updates on the situation have been given.

SOHAM AND DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

- To establish, maintain, finance and manage an indoor sports hall;
- To act as a central body representing all sports interests in Soham and the surrounding district;
- To maintain and improve the provision of all sports learning and recreational facilities within Soham and the surrounding district.

Representation:	Two Members
Status of Member:	Voting Committee Member
Approx. no. of meetings per year:	At least 3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	2
Contact Officer:	Leisure and Active Lifestyles Manager, (vacant)

Representatives for 2023/24:	tbc
	tbc

REPORTS FROM 2022/23 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Ian Bovingdon

No comment as no meetings!

Cllr Daniel Schumann

I attended no meetings and was never invited to any.

[Since receipt of these reports, the outside body has been contacted and has explained that “We had not had meetings except management committee ones over Covid and emails were sent out regarding these as necessary. The last meeting we had was 10 May, no council representatives attended although emails were sent to all committee as was before Covid. Our next meeting will be in July.”]