

District and County Councillor's Report – August 2026

Local Plan

We are now at a very key time in the process for the District Council's Local Plan (the blueprint outlining where to build houses and employment space over the next 20 years), we have entered the final round of public consultation that is being undertaken before the plan will be submitted to government for examination. This is very important as it's the last opportunity for us to comment on the proposals before the council can choose to make any final adjustments before submitting. The comments made at this stage will be seen by the planning inspector, who is the one that will make the final judgement on whether the Local Plan is sound, or not.

The big-ticket item in our area is the Grange Farm new town proposal. Initially it was proposed to build a new 6000 house development to the north of Abington. There were over 1000 representations received via the first public consultation in January this year, on the Grange Farm proposal alone, so thank you to all those who engaged with the process. Following this the council has made some changes – the main two being the number of houses has been reduced from 6000 to 4500 giving a density of circa 45-60 houses per hectare. They have also increased the landscape buffer between the Roman Road, which is classed as a historic monument, and the nearest house.

In July there was a meeting of South Cambridgeshire District Council's cabinet (which Henry sits on), where we were being asked to approve putting the Local Plan out to public consultation. We understand that there has been some confusion/misinformation about this locally, some people thinking this decision was to 'approve' the proposals. This isn't the case, the vote that Henry took was simply to agree to publicly consult on the amended proposals and allow people to tell the council what you think about Grange Farm, as well as the rest of the Local Plan.

Whatever the final proposal is, please do use this opportunity to comment on it – positively or negatively – as Grange Farm would be the largest settlement in our area, if taken forward.

You can submit your views on the Council's website -

<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/proposed-submission-greater-cambridge-local-plan>

There are also a raft of public events that the Council are running around the area, where you can go and ask the team questions directly, get the actual facts about the proposals and get help submitting comments, if needed.

The key event dates for us are on **Monday August 17th from 4pm – 7:30pm in Linton Library** and **Thursday 3rd September from 4pm – 7:30pm in Great Abington Primary School**.

The full schedule of public events can be seen here -

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-and-neighbourhood-planning/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan-the-20-year-plan-for-the-greater-cambridge-area>

Kingsway Solar

In June we reported that the Kingsway Solar application had been submitted to the government's planning inspectorate (PINS) for assessment. PINS had to validate the application, where they make sure all the information is there for them to make a decision on it, before it was accepted. PINS replied to Kingsway with a list of changes that they'd need to make before it was in an acceptable state for examination – the letter stretched to some 11 pages... As a result of this, Kingsway withdrew the application with a view to making the required improvements and then resubmitting.

So it looks like this hasn't gone away totally, but does give those of us that are interested the 'summer off' reading and commenting on hundreds of technical documents. The positive thing from this process is that it demonstrates that the government are committed to scrutinising this proposal seriously, rather than waving it through.

Local Government Reorganisation

We were expecting an announcement in July from government about the reorganisation of local government in Cambridgeshire. The District and County councils are proposed to be subsumed to create a single council called a 'unitary authority'.

The announcement, however, wasn't forthcoming and was delayed until October. This doesn't leave much time for the councils to prepare for the first local elections of this new authority in May 2027.

More to follow on this.

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