

**Date of Publication of Decision List: 23 May 2025**

**For Information Only – These Decisions are Not Subject to Call-in**



### **Council – 22 May 2025 – Decision List**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Prayers were led by the Revd Mike Banyard.

A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect following the death of former Councillor Bill Pickess, District Councillor for the Ely South Ward from 2003 to 2007

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Report Ref.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Action by</b>
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	Five public questions were received and responded to as detailed at the end of the Decision List	-
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	To receive apologies for absence from Members.	No Apologies were received.	-
3.	-	Election of Chair 2025/26	To elect a Chair for the municipal year 2025/26.	It was resolved: That Cllr Kelli Pettitt be elected as Chair of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2025/26.	Democratic Services
4.	-	Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Chair and Presentation of Past Chair's Medallion and Scroll	To thank the outgoing Chair for this service and present him with a medallion and scroll.	Council thanked Cllr Mark Goldsack for his service as Chair and presented him with a medallion and a scroll	-
5.	-	Election of Vice-Chair 2025/26	To elect a Vice-Chair for the municipal year.	It was resolved: That Cllr Keith Horgan be elected as Vice Chair of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2025/26.	Democratic Services
6.	-	Declarations of Interests	To receive declarations of interests from Members in respect of any items on the	Cllr Charlotte Cane declared an interest in agenda item 11, the motion on councillors' roles in planning applications. She explained that she would not	-

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
			Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.	participate in the debate or vote so that she could freely discuss and vote on this matter in parliament.	
7.	-	Minutes – 25 February and 20 March 2025	To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 25 February 2025 and 20 March 2025.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2025 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment: that the word “residents” be changed to “visitors” in the first sentence in paragraph four on page 9.</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2025 be agreed as a correct record.</p>	Democratic Services
8.	-	Stretham Ward District By-Election Result	To note the election of Cllr Lee Denney as a member of the Stretham Ward.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>To note that Cllr Lee Denney was elected as a member of the Stretham Ward at the by-election on 1 May 2025.</p>	-
9.	-	Chair’s Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	<p>The Chair announced that:</p> <p>Seminars would be taking place on Tuesday 27 May and Thursday 29 May and the members should inform Democratic Services of which seminar that they would like to attend if they had not already done so.</p> <p>Ian Smith, Director Finance, had announced that he would be retiring and the Chair thanked him for his work over the years and wished him a long and happy retirement.</p>	-
10.	-	Petitions	To receive and petitions	There were no petitions for Council to receive	-
11.	-	Notice of Motions under Procedure Rule 10	The following Motion was received and considered:		Director Operations

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
			Councillors' Role in Planning Applications	Motion was carried with 27 votes in favour and 1 abstention	
12.	-	To answer questions from Members.	To receive questions from Members of Council.	One question from a member was received and the response was given as detailed at the end of the Decision List	-
13.	AA1	Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Group Leaders and Deputies	To receive details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and Group Leaders and Deputies for the forthcoming year.	It was resolved:  To elect Cllr Anna Bailey as Leader and Cllr Julia Huffer as Deputy Leader.  That the details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Political Groups; and Group Leaders and Deputies for the forthcoming municipal year, as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the Officer's report, be noted.	Democratic Services and Elections Manager
14.	AA2	Political Proportionality	To receive details of the political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies.	It was resolved:  That the political balance, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be noted, and the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub Committees and other Member Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.	Democratic Services and Elections Manager
15.	AA3	Membership of Committees and Sub-Committees (Including Substitutes) and Other Member Bodies 2025/26	To consider the appointments of Members and substitutes to Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member bodies for 2025/26.	It was resolved that:  a) Council approves the membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member bodies for 2025/26, as attached at Appendix 1, with the addition of the appointment of Cllr Lee Denney to both the Licensing Committee and as a substitute member of the Licensing Sub-Committee (Statutory).	Democratic Services and Elections Manager

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
				<p>b) Council approves the appointment of a Lay Member, as set out in Appendix 1, to the Audit Committee.</p> <p>c) Council approves an amendment to the Constitution to allow an equal allocation of committee seats on the following sub-committees that do not fall under the political proportionality ruling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance &amp; Assets (Ethical Governance) Sub-Committee</li> <li>• Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee</li> <li>• Licensing Sub-Committee (Statutory)</li> <li>• Council</li> </ul> <p>d) Council approves the appointments of 2 Independent Persons and 2 Co-opted Town/Parish Councillor Members, as set out in Appendix 1, on the Finance &amp; Assets (Ethical Governance) Sub-Committee.</p>	
16.	-	Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for all Committees and Sub-Committees 2025/26	To confirm the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the Committees and Sub Committees of the Council for the municipal year 2025/26	<p>It was resolved to make the following appointments:</p> <p>Finance and Assets Committee Chair: Cllr Alan Sharp  Finance and Assets Committee Vice-Chair: Cllr Ian Bovington  Operational Services Committee Chair: Cllr Julia Huffer  Operational Services Committee Vice-Chair: Cllr Lucius Vellacott  Audit Committee Chair: Cllr David Brown  Audit Committee Vice-Chair: Cllr Lucius Vellacott  Licensing Committee Chair: Cllr Julia Huffer  Licensing Committee Vice-Chair: Cllr Martin Goodearl  Planning Committee Chair: Cllr Bill Hunt  Planning Committee Vice-Chair: Cllr Mark Goldsack</p>	Democratic Services and Elections Manager

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
				Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee Chair: Cllr Alan Sharp Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee Vice-Chair: Cllr Ian Bovington F&A (Ethical Governance) Sub-Committee Chair: Cllr Alan Sharp F&A (Ethical Governance) Sub-Committee Vice-Chair: Cllr Ian Bovington Licensing Sub-Committee (Statutory) Chair: Cllr Keith Horgan Licensing Sub-Committee (Statutory) Vice-Chair: Cllr Lavina Edwards Licensing Sub-Committee (Non-Statutory) Chair: Cllr Martin Goodearl Licensing Sub-Committee (Non-Statutory) Vice-Chair: Cllr Julia Huffer	
17.	AA4	Schedule of Items Recommended from Committees and Other Member Bodies	To consider a recommendation from the Audit Committee to approve the Audit Committee Annual Report	It was resolved to: Approve the Audit Committee Annual Report	Director Finance
18.	AA5	Bereavement Centre Budget	To consider the updated Bereavement Centre business case and supporting budget proposal	It was resolved to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Note the updated revenue business case modelling as set out in Appendix 1.</li> <li>b) Approve a further allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of £4,757,087 for the capital build of the Bereavement Centre.</li> <li>c) Authorise the Director Finance to secure alternative funding via internal borrowing where CIL is not yet available, in consultation with the Chair of Finance and Assets Committee (as detailed in section 5.5).</li> </ul>	Director Operations

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
				d) Authorise the Director Operations, in consultation with Director Legal, to finalise and enter into the contract between the Council and Contractor A as set out in Appendix 2. e) Authorise the Director Operations, in consultation with Director Legal, to procure and enter into a contract with an electric cremator provider.	
19.	-	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	To make appointments to the Board and Committees of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and to note the update report for February and March.	It was resolved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To appoint Cllr Anna Bailey as the Council's appointee to the Combined Authority with Cllr Julia Huffer as the substitute member.</li> <li>b) That Cllr Lucius Vellacott and Cllr Christine Whelan be nominated as Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cllr Keith Horgan and Cllr Mark Inskip as substitute members.</li> <li>c) That Cllr Mark Inskip be nominate to the Audit and Governance Committee and Cllr Christine Whelan be nominated as substitute member.</li> <li>d) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any amendments to the appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, if the political balance is amended by the Combined Authority between now and the next Council meeting.</li> <li>e) To note the update report for February and March.</li> </ul>	Democratic Services and Elections Manager
20.	AA6	Action Taken on the Grounds of Urgency – Wentworth Parish	To note the action taken on the grounds of urgency regarding the Council Tax	It was resolved to: Note the action taken on grounds of urgency to amend the Council Tax resolution to show the required precept by Wentworth Parish Council as £10,500.	Director Finance

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
		Council – Council Tax	request of Wentworth Parish Council.		
		<b>Exclusion of the press and public</b>		It was resolved: That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the following item because it was likely, in the view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).	
21.	AA7	Partnership Working Through Section 113 Agreement	To consider whether Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) should enter into a Section 113 agreement with Maldon District Council to provide Fraud Services.	It was resolved to: Approve that Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) enter into a Section 113 Agreement with Maldon District Council, to enable ARP officers to provide Fraud Services to the Council.	Director Finance

## 1. Public Question Time

### Question from John Setchell

“I am here on behalf of the Campaign for Unitary Authorities in Cambridgeshire, who have written to all councillors to set out some suggested principles for determining how the new unitaries should be formed.

“The key points are:

- There must be a genuine improvement in democratic accountability: changes must increase democratic accountability while being able to take difficult decisions;
- Each council should have a coherent economic area;
- Each council should contain a reasonably coherent culture;
- Each council should cover a single travel for work area;

“Additionally, we believe, unitaries should reflect coherent housing/rental patterns, have clarity about funding, that councils should be able to share services and work together and that councils must not be so large as to ‘lose touch’ with people.

“We also believe there must be clarity of relations with a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Mayor. Although our organisation is opposed to the existence of a mayoral position, we recognise that government will likely retain it. It is not clear why it will be necessary in the context of say three unitary authorities to have an overarching authority. For instance, it would make little sense to have a unitary council, managing issues like housing, growth and transport, but have another body set the strategy for these.

“The question we have for the District Council is ‘Do you agree with the principles we have set out? Will you push for a unitary authority that has clear powers to manage change effectively with strong democratic accountability, and which ending up looking in multiple directions?’”

### **Response from the Leader, Cllr Anna Bailey**

“Thank you very much for your question and for representing your organisation here tonight. The decision by government to fast track one of the most significant changes to local government in 50 years has brought with it many challenges, not least the nature of how we judge the merits of any new unitary proposal. All proposals need to evidence how they meet the governments key criteria, which includes:

- “Achieving average population sizes of 500k or more, and to be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity, and withstand financial shocks
- “The new unitary must prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services
- “Be a credible geography and identity, meet local need and demonstrate local support
- “Support economic growth and devolution arrangements. Increase housing supply (a key point for the Government), be of a sensible economic area, so we do not create advantage or disadvantage for other areas
- “Enable stronger community engagement, neighbourhood empowerment and democratic accountability
- “With a presumption that new unitaries will be built on existing council boundaries.

“Many of these criteria do correlate to the principles identified by the Cambs Unitary Campaign Group. And while I believe some of the government criteria for success are utterly flawed, not least the proposal that unitaries should cover provide services to populations of 500k or more, I do agree that we must ensure we retain or improve democratic accountability, keep our councils as local as possible, and ensure the identity and needs of our cities, towns and villages are reflected and nurtured equally within the new Unitary Councils.



“Any proposals put forward to Government must address a whole area and while there may be an argument for a strong single unitary in one part of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, this cannot and must not disadvantage other areas. Therefore, there is a significant balancing act between financial sustainability, identity, economic growth and housing that we must achieve to ensure that any new Unitary is put on a sustainable footing. We have gone out to consultation. I think we are the only authority in the area to have done this and got a significant response in a short period of time. We will be going back out to our residents, parishes and businesses soon to find out what really matters to them so that our proposals genuinely reflect their views where possible.

“I would just add that the best thing about ECDC is that we are small, nimble and close to the people and the businesses that we represent. I cannot support the diktat that councils should be 500,000 people or more. Most councils of that size in the country are failing. So in my opinion small really is beautiful in the world of local government. I am working with other leaders across the county and chief executives and doing our best to reach an agreement, although this may prove difficult. We are working to the deadline of November, when the area has to submit its final proposals to Government.”

#### **Question from Vanessa Brammer**

“The reason I am here is because I am hearing a lot of information from social media and village talk about the proposed crematorium. I am from Sutton and when I heard about this meeting on Monday, I tried to get others to attend, but they could not get here due to work. So, because I was off, I said that I would come. I really wanted to ask a few questions about this proposed crematorium. I have lived in Sutton for 30 years and I have seen information in the village about the Mepal Outdoor Centre that used to be on the premises. There have been some instances, with illegal raves and security had to come in. I do not agree with important decisions being made on social media and I do not agree with us finding out about it in the village a lot later than we should have done. £13 million is a lot of money, which is being discussed in Sutton. There is a petition, which I have signed, and many other neighbours have also signed, against the crematorium. I would not wish to say farewell to my loved ones and closest friends next to a biodigester, which is right next door, and it stinks. It is also right next door to the A142 with the lorries and heavy traffic. But the main point we are all trying to make is that £13 million is a lot of public money, that is money that was given to us – the community – to be built on infrastructure, such as parks, skate parks and places for children to go. We have to go to Haddenham to get to a skate park, which is a lovely thing for kids. We have nothing in Sutton. Now the money is obscene. £13 million being spent on a crematorium, when we already have plenty of them in the area. I also have heard rumours that this decision was taken in secret, behind closed doors. So, I would like someone to confirm whether it was or wasn't. We would also like to ask the Leader if there would be a public enquiry as to how public money is spent.”

**Question from Charmaine Switsur, which was read out by the Chair**

“Firstly, I support the decision to build the Bereavement Centre being near Mepal. The sooner the better.

Secondly, I believe the site is so much more than a beautiful, tranquil and desirable spot to rest -much more special than other nearby crematoria. I myself would like to rest there one day, when I die.

“This rich, biodiverse environment needs to be protected. My question to the Council is what are you doing to protect this wonderful biodiverse area? What assessment has the Council done in relation to its effect on the biodiversity and nature?

“I do hope that all the plans for this wonderful facility will soon be underway.”

**Question from Drew Silver, which was read out by the Chair**

“Can we have an independent public inquiry into council behaviour surrounding the repurposing of what was the site of Mepal Outdoor Centre?

“I, and many others in the East Cambs district, have raised concerns following the exclusion of the public during the first 18 months of the project's development and the unethical spending of funds.

“Development should be immediately halted until we can verify there is a genuine need for a crematorium that warrants £13 million expenditure in that location and whether or not it's what the public wants.”

**Question from Simon Hazeldine, which was read out by the Chair**

“Please can you explain why you are trying to force through a Crematorium project when:

“1, The site is badly affected by an overpowering smell from the Biodigester Plant next door, as well as flies from the stagnant lakes. This makes the site totally unsuitable.

“2, Crematoriums nationally are seeing a downturn in business due to the popularity of 'no-fuss' cremations. This means the viability of the long-term business is extremely uncertain.

“3, Several posts on local social media have shown roughly 80% of people expressing an opinion are against the plans. The council is supposed to represent the local people!

“4, The costs have nearly doubled in just a few years and will almost certainly exceed the £13 million pounds currently being quoted. That is a shocking waste of public money that could be far better used in the community.

“5, Nobody asked for a crematorium! If no alternative use can be found for the land, why not just allow the site to return to nature?”

### **Response from the Leader, Cllr Anna Bailey to those questions**

“It is helpful for future reference if we can have questions in advance, so I can be more prepared. I thank you for coming and hope that you will stay for the debate, so that you can hear a much more rounded discussion, than perhaps has been taking place in social media.

“There were various questions. With regards the time it has taken, there was an ambition to have a crematorium before the elections in 2019. It was included in the Council’s corporate plan many years ago. At that time no site had been identified. We were advised by experts that it would be unwise to advertise the fact that the authority wanted a crematorium as it is a highly competitive and litigious field. However, the plans for a crematorium have been known for a very long time and the decision was not taken behind closed doors. Some information has been in exempt papers, but the covering report has always been in the public domain. The decision regarding the final business case was taken in open session in February 2024. When you are dealing with a commercially sensitive project it is normal to do preparatory work behind the scenes. This information cannot be openly shared with other commercial operators. This is the normal process and goes on at every other Council in the country, when working on commercially sensitive projects.

“In relation to the costs, it was £9 million that was set aside when originally looking at this. We have been out to tender. It has been a very competitive process; we had a lot of bids. The framework contract allowed the Council to select a preferred provider and then go line by line through each bit of public expenditure. It has been reviewed by the Council’s independent quantity surveyors. It really matters that taxpayers are getting value for money, and I am assured that they really are. If it goes ahead, it will be a fixed price contract. The price will be set.

“This project is not just about a crematorium. It is more than that. The project is about securing, enhancing and protecting a very beautiful, much loved and special site for the community, now and into the future. The site is unique. It is a designated wildlife site. It is home to a nationally supported species, and we have been working with the Wildlife Trust who are really pleased with the management plans that we have brought forward as part of this project.

“We want to offer a really supportive service. Mike Banyard talked about the necessity to support the bereaved. That is what we want to do. I think we can do it at this site. It is an eco-crematorium using electric cremators and there aren’t many in the country. That matters to a lot of people. There is going to be a natural burials area, a pet cemetery area, woodland walks, a lakeside setting. The chapel looks out onto the lake. A beautiful vista on which to say goodbye to loved ones. Residents will be able to

enjoy the site for walking, bird watching and controlled fishing through a fishing club. Those are the activities that the Wildlife Trust have said are compatible with the biodiversity and wildlife on the site. It will remain a site that will be available for our whole community.

“The electric cremator limits the crematorium to two services a day. What that means is that it is very different to other crematoriums, as people will be able to have time on the site to gather with loved ones at an event afterwards and have time there. I believe that most people don’t go back, but this is a massive site with a huge lakeside walk and this will naturally encourage people to go back and reflect and think about their loved ones.

“The site needs to be secured and managed to protect the wildlife there. We had an ambition to deliver a crematorium. This will serve the vast population of East Cambridgeshire. Most people live in Ely, Littleport and Soham and the crematorium will be accessible to those people, who don’t currently have facilities in the district.

“You asked about the use of CIL. The Community Infrastructure Levy is a pot of money that we collect from all CIL chargeable development. It is the best thing we did as a Council as we have received £35 million. CIL has supported a massive number of projects across the district, including leisure centres, cycle routes, footpaths, bridges, schools, learning hubs, GP surgeries, new and improved roads, sports facilities, new car parks and land for cemeteries. Nearly £6 million has been allocated to parish councils and Sutton, having a neighbourhood plan, receives 25% of all CIL receipts for development that happens in Sutton. There are very few restrictions on how this money can be spent locally. The district council has much greater restrictions on what we can spend our CIL receipts on. The parishes don’t, as long as they can show that it supports growth, so that ambition for a skatepark would be a legitimate project for Sutton Parish Council to fund through its CIL receipts. The district council’s portion of CIL funds is much more about strategic projects. We have supported the Ely southern by-pass, the A14 upgrade and the hive leisure centre. These are much bigger projects to support growth. The crematorium is a project that supports growth. The district is growing at 2%, one of the largest growth areas in the country and we need to cater for this, and we have an opportunity to do this really well.

“The site is near the bio-digester, but this had never caused any issues in the past. I don’t think that this will be an issue.

“There was another question about biodiversity. Specifically, they were saying that they want us to get on with it and what we were doing to protect biodiversity. Over the past the year the council has undertaken numerous ecology surveys and has been working closely with the Wildlife Trust to develop an ecology management plan and the layout of the landscaping. The natural environment has featured in every part of our design, whether that’s retaining or restoring the large natural sand dunes in the planting additional

native trees and grasses around the site and maintaining the natural burial area as a flower meadow. Residents will also be able to memorialise their loved ones with additional trees, and bat or bird boxes, as we really want to encourage nature into the site.

“In the coming months we will also be inviting expression of interest from Fishing clubs to use the northern edges of the lake, the successful club will have to demonstrate how they will manage the lake carefully to protect the wildlife and ensure people fish there responsibly.

“The site will be open to the public for contemplative walks and bird watching, so that everyone will be able to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. When the time is right, we will be inviting the public to an open day to the new Bereavement Centre so that we can share with you the newly restored natural landscape.

“I really hope those people have come here will stay and listen to the debate. I think that you will hear a more rounded view on what our proposals are why we think it is a good idea.”

## **11. Notice of Motion**

### **Councillors' Role in Planning Applications**

East Cambridgeshire District Council, hereinafter referred to as the 'Council', notes that:

- The Deputy Prime Minister has published a planning and infrastructure bill designed to liberalise planning rules
- The Local Government Association has written to ministers to express its reservations about this plan
- This Council has a commitment under its Corporate Plan to support community-led, affordable and sustainable development, with investment in infrastructure

The Council believes that:

- Whilst the Council places on record its admiration for the high-quality work of its planning officers, it is additionally the democratic role of locally elected councillors to be involved in the decision-making process of selected planning applications which affect their residents' lives and land
- Such applications are not necessarily restricted to large or non-routine applications
- This plan could represent a further setback to community-led development

- Removing the ability for councillors to choose to debate and vote on specific developments in their localities could erode public trust in the planning system and local government more generally
- Regional Mayors will soon be responsible for strategic planning and will be given new powers to “call in” applications for decision
- Local Planning Authorities will be significantly larger and more remote from local communities after Local Government Reorganisation
- Ministers lack the level of localised information which councils and councillors have as to which decisions should be made by officers and which by councillors
- These measures represent an erosion of local democracy and accountability

Therefore, the Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to MHCLG and Charlotte Cane MP, outlining this Council’s opposition to the proposals and inviting them to work with the Council to find appropriate solutions
- Instruct the Operational Services Committee, in consultation with relevant officers, to do all it can to ensure that robust mechanisms continue to exist for Councillors both to express views on and to determine planning applications related to their ward, in anticipation of the Bill becoming law
- Continue to encourage and provide advice and assistance to its parishes in the preparation and completion of local Neighbourhood Plans over the next three years, including those which are beginning the process of creating one, such as Wicken Parish Council

**Proposer: Cllr Lucius Vellacott**

**Seconder: Cllr Bill Hunt**

## **12. To Answer Question from Members**

### **Question from Cllr Mary Wade to Cllr Anna Bailey, Leader of Council**

“Illegal on-street parking continues to be raised by residents in Ely and East Cambridgeshire as a problem.

“In my first council meeting I raised this question on behalf of my residents and received positive news from the Leader of the Council in terms of a plan for a police enforcement role to tackle the issue. This had been confirmed to residents through an article written by the Leader of the Council on the East Cambs Conservative group website with the title ‘A New Police Enforcement Role to Tackle Illegal Car Parking and Speeding in East Cambs’, in 2022.

“Further reassurance was provided a year later in 2023 when a council spokesperson told the Ely Standard that ‘East Cambridgeshire District Council has been developing the new road safety officer volunteer role with the county’s police force to address issues such as speeding and parking enforcement’.

“Eighteen months after that update provided to the residents via the Ely Standard and following positive progress reports to members in the council chamber following questions from myself and Cllr Vellacott, is the Leader of the council still confident that the new road safety officers will prove effective in addressing illegal on-street parking in the district.

“In particular, can she confirm:

1. The number of applicants to the Expressions of Interest run by the police last Autumn.
2. The number of road safety officer volunteers who have completed training.
3. The number of parking penalty tickets issued by road safety volunteers.”

**Response from the Leader, Cllr Anna Bailey**

“Thank you for the question, which presents me with a very timely opportunity to give an update. I am aware that the Liberal Democrat and Independent members of this Council would like to spend public money bringing in civil parking enforcement to deal with the incredibly annoying issue of illegal on street parking in our district. However, as I have previously stated in this chamber, on street parking enforcement is a responsibility of the Police and the only authority that can take on the criminalisation of illegal on street parking is the County Council. Cllr Lorna Dupré is now the deputy leader of the County Council, and my sincere congratulations to her. The County Council is now be run solely by the Liberal Democrats and so the Liberal Democrat and Independent colleagues on this Council may want to pursue this issue with Cllr Dupré.

“I am as disappointed as Cllr Wade that the promised pilot of Cambridgeshire Police has not been forthcoming yet and I share the concern about the ongoing abuse of on street parking in hot spots around the district. I have regularly pushed the Police for progress on this matter, but they are not in my control, unfortunately I have very little sway with the Police force. I am please to say that responsibility for this has been taken over by Superintendent Adam Gallop who is acutely aware of public opinion on this. I met with Superintendent Gallop at the Council’s offices on 16<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the matter in a positive meeting. Cambridgeshire Police have now got a record number of Police constables in place and are recruiting more PCSOs and so Superintendent Gallop has proposed an alternative way of dealing with the illegal parking in the District, which had been suggested by the Council many years ago, to increase the Police resource to deal with the matter and this can be set up quickly. I hope that this will finally improve the situation. Of course, this doesn’t prevent Cllr Dupré from pursing civil parking enforcement in her new role in the County Council, which I suggest could be run in a similar model to that of South Cambridgeshire District Council, where the County

Council has taken on all responsibility for parking in the district of South Cambridgeshire, with no involvement by the District Council whatsoever.”

Cllr Mary Wade stated that her question: “is the Leader of the council still confident that the new road safety officers will prove effective in addressing illegal on-street parking in the district” had not been answered. Cllr Anna Bailey replied that she was content that she had answered the question.