
BOTTISHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

29 April 2025

REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

I would firstly like to thank our Clerk and all our volunteer councillors who give so freely of their time to serving this village. We have achieved an enormous amount again during another busy year. Highlights have been:

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Recently ECDC made the decision not to create a new Local Plan after the news that it would be incorporated into a new unitary authority in 2028. With the current Local Plan expiring in 2030 (almost certainly before the new unitary authority can create a new local plan), it means that our Neighbourhood Plan assumes much greater significance. So, I am pleased to be able to report that, after incorporation of resident's comments at the recent village consultation, our first draft is now undergoing a Pre-Submission review at ECDC prior to entering the formal Regulation 14 process of approval. We are well on track to having the Neighbourhood Plan fully approved for 2026.

BUSES

Drawing upon an enormous amount of work across the villages coordinated by the B1102 group, we are delighted that operators have finally been approved for the two new bus services to replace the current No.11 bus. The two new services are a fast Soham to Cambridge connection and a Newmarket - Addenbrookes/Hills Rd orbital connection. Both are expected to start running in June.

RIDGE CLEAN SOLAR PARK

An agreement has now been signed between the developers, the landowner and the three affected parishes that will result in regular payments to Bottisham Parish Council once energisation commences at the new solar park south of the A14. However approval for the connection route to the grid has yet to be applied for, so we are still some way off receiving payments at present.

20 MPH LOCAL HIGHWAYS INITIATIVE (LHI) application

Following consultations with residents, we were very pleased that our LHI application to have 20 mph speed limits throughout the village has been approved and the Parish Council has commented on the draft plans. A further LHI application to have double yellow lines has also been put forward and accepted but we don't know finalized locations or dates.

BOTTISHAM GREENWAY

After the decision to apply for 20 mph throughout the village, we have agreed with the GCP that the Bottisham Greenway will now end near the entrance to Wisbeach Close. This is we believe a good outcome and the planning application is being pursued this spring.

PROJECT PLAY WORKING GROUP

The newly completed Bottisham Meadows has a new pre-school play area incorporated within it. However, there is an exciting possibility to create further multi-age play facilities on part of the open space being transferred to ECDC by the developers - namely Jubilee Wood and the grassed area beside it. A resident's working group has been set up to liaise with ECDC in development of this area which, once completed, will be maintained by the District Council.

Another opportunity to develop play provision is on the planned retirement village site, where the outline planning consent includes provision for a play area and 3 ha of amenity land. It is early days, and detailed plans are yet to be presented. However, Project Play and the Parish Council will be working together to make sure that we make the most of this additional opportunity for the village.

NEW CEMETERY

We have agreed with the National Trust that we will enter into a commercial purchase of the land beside Lode Rd once the Secretary of State approves a compulsory purchase of the land by ECDC.

We now have a draft sale agreement that is being reviewed by the lawyers contracted to exercise the (CPO). At the time of writing, we have yet to receive the final document for our approval. But once both sides have agreed the terms of sale, we will finally be able to apply for a CPO. All very slow, but we are slowly getting there and may be in a position to purchase the land in the next few months.

"OLD" CEMETERY

This spring we employed a temporary administration assistant to upload all our paper cemetery records into a new digital data-base that we plan to use going forwards. This has been an excellent exercise and has given much better control over our records, identifying some unused spaces (which we may need while the new cemetery is built) and uncovered some interesting bits of history.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE EVENT

I must finally comment upon the very successful Parish Council sponsored Christmas event that took place on the Triangle in December. Unfortunately, Storm Darragh meant that we had to very rapidly conjure up a Plan B - which involved the very generous offer of accommodation in "The Bell". At one point we seemed to have half the village crammed into the pub!! Fortunately, the weather cleared a little to have the lighting up event and carol singing around the magnificent Christmas tree - which was much appreciated over the next few weeks lighting up the Triangle.

A wonderful evening that we plan to repeat on 6th December 2025.

Jon Ogborn
Chair of Parish Council
29th April 2025

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – 29TH APRIL 2025

This year, the County has encountered several issues, and my report provides a summary of the key points relevant to Bottisham residents.

Highways

Swaffham Heath Rd/A 1303 Crossroads

After four years of waiting, the new staggered junction was opened towards the end of 2024. I am aware of one accident since, involving a motor cyclist and a car. We just need to keep vigilant and ensure that the safety of all road users is paramount.

Local Highways Improvement Scheme

The Parish was successful with a bid for double yellow lines opposite the junction with Bell Road, which should help stop dangerous parking, which causes problems for the number 12 bus as well as the Village College buses.

Capital Maintenance of roads programme

The County Council has introduced a new system for the major resurfacing works which uses a scoring matrix to assess the roads most in need of major work. That sounds a good idea, but I believe that the scoring matrix is very biased towards urban areas, leaving an unlevel playing field. The normal pothole repairs come out of the revenue budget, but there needs to be better workmanship on those repairs than currently is the case.

Mill Road Bridge

Back in October 2024, the Highways & Transport Committee voted to restrict Mill Road bridge in Cambridge to taxis, buses, and blue badge holders.

I am opposed to this scheme, as no account of the effect on side roads off Mill Road, such as Tennison Road and Coleridge Road, together with the extra traffic created on Cherry Hinton Road and Coldhams Lane was considered.

Highways Weedkilling

Our group opposed the Council's decision in 2023 to stop chemical weedkilling to save money.

I believed this to be a false economy and in 2024, the County Council were forced to reintroduce the chemical weedkilling, due to the state that it left our roads in. Parishes and areas were able to continue without chemical weedkilling, which Cambridge City decided not to use. The state of roads such as Trumpington Road shows this to be an incorrect policy.

Busways – Cambridge to Cambourne and CSET

The Council voted to proceed with the busway from Cambourne to Cambridge going through an ancient orchard in Coton at a cost of £200m, as well as another busway going into Addenbrookes going over open countryside and the Gog Magog Hills at a cost of £162m.

I opposed both of those schemes, as there are much cheaper on-road solutions, which do not carve open our countryside.

Council Reorganisation

The County Council held a special meeting on 18th March to agree the Council's response to the Government's Council reorganisation, which Government requested for 21st March, with East Cambridgeshire District Council meeting on 20th March.

The response to Government consisted of a joint letter from all of the Councils within Peterborough and Cambridgeshire excluding Fenland.

The response was very much a holding response and Government are stating that the final decision from the councils is sent by 28th November and if the tier 2 authorities, i.e. District Councils cannot agree, then the County Council makes the decision. Whilst I agree that there was a need for a reorganisation, this has been imposed by Government with little discussion and no opportunity for residents to comment.

Buses

The mayor, as his last act before announcing that he was not standing for election, decided to implement franchising. I have huge concerns on how this will be financed and could cause a huge financial burden on residents for many years to come. The extra buses promised as part of the precept increase in 2024 had to go out to tender again, with it looking likely that those services will happen sometime during the summer, a year after residents were paying for them.

This will include a direct service from Bottisham to the sixth form colleges and Addenbrookes.

Education

The County Council is currently spending £25m on taxis to transport pupils around the County. Whilst a lot of the costs is unavoidable, I have raised concerns in the Education Committee about those costs and how we need to reduce them.

The availability of school places is another issue, as seen in Cambridge, where several secondary schools are full to new pupils, causing those school with places, such as Bottisham Village College, to take those pupils, with pupils having a longer than desired journey to school.

It is a difficult balancing act, but there is a need to take a look at the location and capacity of schools around the County.

Kingsway Solar

Kingsway Solar is a proposed 3,700-acre solar farm, which will encircle West Wratting and Weston Colville, whilst taking the resulting electricity ten miles on pylons across the countryside to the Burwell substation. I spoke as the local member at the Environment & Green Investment Committee at County Council to express my concerns about the proposed application.

The application is in totally the wrong position, and I will continue to push for a decision that thinks about residents rather than those of opportunistic applicants.

Alan Sharp

Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Woodditton Ward

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – 29TH APRIL 2025

Significant achievements and decisions by East Cambridgeshire District Council

- Recognising the need for accessible play areas for all children, and having an audit of current playgrounds to judge whether they can be adapted.
- Planning for waste bin collection to meet Government specifications, collecting general waste in bins, and encouraging more recycling.
- Still no progress with parking enforcement throughout the District.
- A Conservative member of the Council became an Independent and has formed a political group with the Lib Dems. The two political groups comprise 14 members each. However, a Lib Dem member has had to resign due to ill-health, and a by-election is being held.
- Officers predict a considerable increase in costs for building the Mepal Crematorium. Although there is sufficient CIL money to cover the increase in costs, it would mean that other infrastructure enhancements would be curtailed.
- Street cleansing and bin collection targets are not quite being met. However, there is improvement.
- Several more Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted.
- In the light of the Local Government Reorganisation it has been decided that not to proceed with the Local Plan, as it would be soon superseded by the new authority.
- The District Council tax remains the same.



Bottisham Village College

Achievement through Inspiring, Caring, Enriching

Principal: Mrs Jenny Rankine M.Ed LLCM

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Parish Council Report – School Activities and Community Engagement Presented by Mrs Jenny Rankine, Principal Date: 28/4/25

Introduction This report outlines the various educational, cultural, and community initiatives undertaken by our school, highlighting recent activities and upcoming events that contribute to student enrichment and local engagement.

School Growth and Achievements Student numbers have risen to 1,500, reflecting the school's ongoing development with the school close to being fully subscribed for next year. A growing number of students now joining BVC from Cambridge city and Newmarket with children coming from over 35 different primaries and overseas.

Development of Saturday Music School As part of our commitment to strengthening ties with local feeder primary schools, we are launching a **Saturday Music School after a very successful holiday music workshops**. This initiative aims to provide young musicians from primary schools with access to high-quality tuition, ensemble practice, and performance opportunities. By fostering early engagement in music, we hope to support students' development and ease their transition into secondary education.

Community Policing and Safety PC Chris Boother, Safer Schools Officer for South and East Cambridgeshire, remains a vital presence in the school, offering support and guidance to ensure student safety and well-being.

Recent Educational and Extracurricular Activities

- **Imperial War Museum Visit:** Year 11 students visited the Holocaust Exhibition to deepen their understanding of Weimar and Nazi Germany, reinforcing their GCSE studies. Year 10 students will participate in a similar visit in April.
- **Harry Potter World:** The top 76 Sparx Maths achievers in Year 8 visited Harry Potter Studios to explore how mathematics is used in set design and character scaling, making learning interactive and engaging.
- **Move It Dance Festival:** Performing Arts students attended a renowned dance festival at London Excel, experiencing professional performances and connecting with industry experts.
- **Primary School Sports Festival:** A new initiative where primary year groups participate in dedicated sports festivals led by our sports leaders, fostering teamwork and fitness.
- **Lazer Tag at Milton Country Park:** Students will engage in a high-energy Lazer Tag session, with plans for a mobile version to be introduced at school.
- **Football Foundation Pledge United Project:** In collaboration with Cambridge United, we are addressing gender violence and discrimination through football-related activities.



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- **Ski Trip:** 62 Year 10 students have recently travelled to Sestriere, Italy, for a skiing experience, including structured lessons and evening entertainment.

Upcoming Events

- **VE Day Commemorations** The school is preparing for meaningful VE Day celebrations, featuring archive displays and assemblies designed to educate students about its historical significance. Additionally, Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) students are actively supporting community initiatives as part of their service commitments.
- **Wembley Stadium Visit:** Year 8 students will attend an England vs. Latvia World Cup qualifier.
- **Blood Brothers Theatre Trip:** Year 10 Drama students will watch a performance of this play as part of their GCSE coursework.
- **DofE Expeditions:** Bronze and Silver level students will complete practice and assessed trekking expeditions across Cambridgeshire and South Shropshire.

Adult Learning (please see separate flyers)

Sports Centre: Please see sports centre website