
BOTTISHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

APRIL 2026

CHAIR REPORT

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

I would like to begin by thanking our Clerk, Assistant and all Parish Councillors for the time and commitment they continue to give in supporting the village. The work of the Parish Council is wide-ranging and often ongoing, and relies heavily on that contribution.

Over the past year, the Council has continued to focus on three key areas: planning and development, transport and highways, and environment and community matters, while also preparing for wider changes in local government.

Planning and Development

Planning Applications

The Parish Council is notified of all planning applications relating to Bottisham. We review each application to assess whether it meets relevant requirements, considering scale, appropriateness, and environmental factors such as wastewater and drainage. We remain mindful of cumulative impact and issues such as overdevelopment. All applications are publicly available, and residents are encouraged to engage where appropriate.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has made steady progress over the past year. We secured matched funding from East Cambridgeshire District Council, allowing work to continue with appropriate support. The working group has been developing policies, reviewing evidence, and incorporating earlier feedback. Over the next 12 months, the focus will be on completing the draft Plan, undertaking formal consultation, and progressing through independent examination to a local referendum. This will be an important step in strengthening the village's influence over future development.

New Cemetery

Following detailed consideration, the Council took the decision in March 2026 not to proceed with the new cemetery project. This reflected a combination of significantly increased development costs, a funding shortfall that could have required an increase in the precept, and, importantly, a decline in burial rates in recent years, both locally and nationally. Feedback from residents also highlighted concerns once more detail was available.

Going forward, the Council will focus on making best use of the existing cemetery. This includes improved digital records and exploring options to identify unused plots and extend capacity where possible. The Government is currently undertaking a national review, alongside the Law Commission, which is expected to recommend the reuse of graves over 75 years and the reopening of closed churchyards. These changes could significantly extend capacity in the future.

The Council will continue to focus on maximising existing provision, including investigating the use of ground-penetrating radar to identify unused plots.

Six Oaks Renewable Energy Project

The Six Oaks Renewable Energy Park has been approved, and the Council has worked with neighbouring parishes to raise and monitor concerns. These include environmental impact, loss of agricultural land, drainage, traffic, and battery storage. The scheme is expected to generate energy equivalent to approximately 1,100 homes and operate for around 40 years. Mitigation measures form part of the approval, and the Council will continue to engage as the project develops.

Retirement Village

There is no further update on the proposed retirement village and associated affordable housing. The Parish Council remains mindful of this potential development and will ensure residents are informed as soon as any planning application is submitted.

Highways and Transport

Buses

Bus services have been maintained, supported by local campaigning. The Council is grateful for the work of the A2B group and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority in helping to secure these services. Bottisham continues to be served by routes linking to Cambridge, Addenbrooke's, and Newmarket.

Real-time passenger information displays have now been installed at the High Street stop, improving accessibility. Services such as Dial-a-Ride remain available for those unable to use conventional buses.

20mph Speed Limit

The village-wide 20mph scheme has now been approved following consultation. Implementation details and timescales are still to be confirmed, but the scheme is intended to support safer movement around the village.

Drainage and Road Maintenance

Drainage remains an ongoing issue. Work has been undertaken on Tunbridge Lane, including clearing and surveys, and there has been some improvement on Lode Road, although problems persist. The Council continues to press for further action and also on Bell Road.

Potholes and other defects remain a concern and should be reported directly to the County Council to ensure they are logged and addressed.

Parking and Traffic Management (LHI / Strategic Funding)

Parking and congestion, particularly around the Triangle, continue to be monitored with enforcement through the police. The introduction of double yellow lines has been subject to public consultation, and some works are still outstanding including re-doing the lines outside the Bell Pub. The Council has

submitted an application for strategic maintenance funding from Cambridgeshire County Council to address key areas, along the High Street, Triangle, and Tunbridge Lane.

Bottisham Greenway

The Bottisham Greenway remains in development, with no confirmed start date. The proposed route would connect the village with an active travel / cycle route to Cambridge and will end near the entrance to Wisbeach Close. The Council continues to engage with the Greater Cambridge Partnership to ensure local concerns, particularly around safety and integration with existing roads, are considered. It is believed the estimation for works to commence is late 2026.

Speed Awareness Initiative

Work is underway with Bottisham Primary School on a road safety poster initiative. Evidence from similar schemes suggests that messages created by children can have a stronger impact on driver behaviour. This will include school engagement and the installation of selected designs around the village.

Speed watch

The Parish Council will be investigating methods for recording the speed within the village, which will include using the Speed Indicate Devices (SIDS) data and looking further into whether a speed watch group can be established.

Environment and Community

Project Play / Play Provision

A new pre-school play area at Copse Close opened in May 2025. In addition, the Council is working with East Cambridgeshire District Council on proposals for further play provision near Jubilee Woods. This will involve design work and a combination of Section 106 funding and potential grants.

Allotments

Additional allotment plots are expected to come into use shortly. We recognise that the legal processes have taken much longer than anticipated. All plots have been allocated, and a formal allotment association is expected to be established once the site is fully operational.

The Triangle and Village Improvements

Improvements to the Triangle have included new benches, planters, and general enhancements. Students from Bottisham Village College, as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, alongside residents, have contributed to planting daffodils around the village. Further planting is planned, supported by volunteers. Other work has included replacing unsafe steps between Tunbridge Lane and Beechwood Avenue, improving access and safety.

Community Initiatives and Events

The village continues to benefit from a strong volunteer base, including a strong proactive litter picking group. The Christmas event was well attended and will return again this year (5th December 2026), building on the success of our last two events.

The Council also initiated an artwork competition for the High Street bus stop, resulting in a striking design by Sasha Walker of Bottisham Village College. Projects with local schools continue to play an important role in wider community initiatives.

A new defibrillator and cabinet has been installed at the Sports and Social Club. There are now two 24/7 publicly accessible defibrillators in the village, alongside those at the school and medical practice. The Council is exploring interest in arranging training sessions for residents.

Noticeboards and Communication

A new Parish Council and Community noticeboard has been installed, providing a central location for Parish Council updates, agendas, and minutes, as well as wider community information.

Unitary Authority Update

The Council has been actively engaged in discussions around the proposed move to a Unitary Authority. We have made representations, alongside 18 other nearby Parishes, that Bottisham should be aligned with Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire, and East Cambridgeshire/Ely in some form. This reflects where residents access services, employment, education, and transport links. A decision is expected in Summer 2026, and this will have longer-term implications for how local services are delivered.

Waste and Recycling Changes

New waste collection arrangements will be introduced by East Cambridgeshire District Council from June 2026, including weekly food waste collections and revised bin systems. Information will be provided to all households as part of the rollout.

Finances

The Parish Council have closed the financial year 25-26, details of which are available as an attachment to this report.

Looking Ahead

The coming year will involve progressing key areas such as the Neighbourhood Plan, infrastructure improvements, and community facilities, while also adapting to wider changes in local government. As always, the Council welcomes input from residents on priorities for the year ahead, and always welcomes an opportunity to hear views.

We also have a Bottisham Parish Council strategic plan for 2026/2027 which is available on our website that outlines key priorities and high-level objectives.

Bottisham Parish Council

Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2026

Last Year Ended 31st March 2025		Current Year Ended 31st March
	Operating Income	
93,459.39	Income	80,176.57
0.00	Administration	1,408.00
533.01	VAT Data	1,908.62
<u>93,992.40</u>	Total Receipts	<u>83,493.19</u>
	Running Costs	
15,309.66	Employment Costs	14,836.88
5,183.49	Administration	4,500.52
29,676.48	Community & General Purposes	15,553.78
420.77	Cemetery	2,113.92
10,918.15	New Cemetery	2,387.84
7,756.15	Neighbourhood Plan	4,072.25
0.00	Allotments & Car Park	350.00
4,650.77	VAT Data	-1,394.23
<u>73,915.47</u>	Total Payments	<u>42,420.96</u>
	Receipts and Payments Summary	
<u>199,608.37</u>	Opening Balance	219,685.30
93,992.40	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	83,493.19
293,600.77		303,178.49
73,915.47	Less Total Payments(As Above)	42,420.96
<u>219,685.30</u>	Closing Balance	260,757.53
	These cumulative funds are represented by:	
219,685.30	Current Bank A/c	260,757.53
<u>219,685.30</u>		<u>260,757.53</u>
	Reserve Balances are represented by:	
20,076.93	Current Year Fund	41,072.23
18,381.37	General Reserves	27,947.30
152,000.00	EMR New Cemetery - conclusion	63,903.00
0.00	EMR Captial Expenditure	10,000.00
989.00	EMR Christmas Event	1,500.00
0.00	EMR Project Play	30,000.00
5,000.00	EMR Profesional/Legal Fees	5,000.00
12,443.00	EMR Neighbourhood Plan	5,540.00
1,500.00	EMR Hardware Provision	2,500.00
3,000.00	EMR LHI Applications	6,000.00
1,000.00	EMR Election Costs	1,000.00
1,795.00	EMR Trees and Biodiversity	5,795.00
3,500.00	EMR S137 Monies	3,500.00
0.00	EMR Service Contract	5,000.00
0.00	EMR Speed Awareness	2,000.00

Bottisham Parish Council

Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2026

Last Year Ended
31st March 2025

0.00

219,685.30

EMR Village Road Safety

Current Year
Ended 31st March

50,000.00

260,757.53

Signed : _____ (Chairman) _____ (RFO)



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Chair: Nadene Cundell **Vice Chair:** Jon Ogborn **Clerk:** Sam Chambers-Turner

BOTTISHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - APRIL 2026 **DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS**

Administration – We were pleased to announce new staffing including an Assistant to the Council and a new Councillor on boarded. The Parish Council has now concluded the 2025–2026 financial year. The Internal Audit has been completed and documentation submitted to the External Auditor for review.

Transport and Highways - is an area that touches everyone's daily lives — whether it's getting the bus to Cambridge, safer speeds around our village, better drainage, or fighting the eternal battle with potholes! We shared updates on the 20mph scheme, ongoing drainage and enforcement issues, along with our continued communication with the Greater Cambridge Partnership on the Greenway project. Discussion was held around the need/want for speed reduction on Lode Road which unfortunately Cambridge County Council's guidance from the Department for Transport indicates that to establish a village speed limit of 30mph in this location there must at least 20houses on one or both sides of the road and a minimum length of 600m. Parish Council stated that we would continue to push for this change and explained that a Phase 2 of the Greenways is to extend it down Lode Road – if this was to be the case it would be very likely that it would become 20mph.

Environment and Community — the heartbeat of our village life. Discussion was held around the exciting new play areas at Copse Close and the planned new play area in Jubilee Woods. We also discussed the upcoming allotments and explained the unfortunately delay of handover, the success of last year's Christmas event, our new community noticeboard and beautification of The Triangle — it's been a busy and positive year. New staffing including an Assistant to the Council and a new Councillor on boarded. The Council is also starting to prepare for a very different future structure with the new Unitary Authority. Ely and East Cambridgeshire Police provided reports on anti-social behaviour where we had only one reported incident and one report of speeding in the village. The Police encouraged residents to report it on their website and/or via webchat. The Police also encouraged residents to join their Online Community Engagement Event. <https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshireconstabulary/areas/services/web-chat/>

Planning and development - continues to be a key focus for the Parish Council, with a number of important projects and applications currently under way. Our aim is to ensure that any changes to Bottisham are carefully managed, appropriate for our village, and genuinely serve the needs of our community. We discussed and took questions on key developments over the past year, including the proposed New Cemetery, Neighbourhood Plan, lack of update on the retirement village and other planning applications.

Action: Parish Council and Ely and East Cambridgeshire Police will establish a “Coffee with a Cop” on a bi-monthly basis.

Action: To see if residents would like to have a one-hour CPR and defibrillator community training by the East Anglian Air Ambulance. This would be a free to attend event but would like to ask participants to give a donation as EAAA need to raise £8.2m to relocate to Fulbourn area and build a new air base.

Action: Parish Council to investigate if, in conjunction with, supported and trained by Ely and East Cambridgeshire Police residents would like to establish a volunteer village SpeedWatch group.