

Councillor Peter McDonald Duxford Division & Ward:  
District Councillor for Parishes of Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford.  
County Councillor also for Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow, Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills,  
Whittlesford

## **Parish County Council Report – June 24.**

### **South Cambs District Council**

#### **Bin lorry fires and battery disposal**

There have already been seven fires in bin lorries so far this year as a result of residents incorrectly disposing of batteries in the black bin. These were caused by lithium-ion batteries, as used in mobile phones, vapes, laptops etc. When these batteries are crushed in the bin lorry they can explode, so it is very dangerous to throw them away in the black bin.

Vape recycling has recently been introduced at Thriplow recycling centre. Larger batteries (e.g. from laptops or e-bikes) should also be taken to a recycling centre. Small household batteries (AA, AAA, C and D and button cells) can be put in a small plastic bag, tied shut and left on top of any of your wheelie bins (green, black, or blue) on collection day. Please help to publicise these rules about safe battery disposal. More details about how to recycle household waste can be found in the South Cambs magazine, or from [recyclenow.com](http://recyclenow.com).

#### **Planning department shortlisted for another award**

On the back of being shortlisted for the Planning Awards’ ‘Local authority planning team of the year’, the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has now been shortlisted for the Royal Town Planning Institute’s ‘Planning Authority of the Year – East of England’.

#### **Rail and ale trail**

A new initiative from the council and its partners to highlight our local village pubs was launched in May. The Rail & Ale Trail features pubs within walking distance of the stations at Foxton, Shepreth, Meldreth, Shelford and Whittlesford. It is being promoted by South Cambs, Greater Anglia, Great Northern, CAMRA, and the Meldreth, Shepreth & Foxton Community Rail Partnership, and is highlighted on the Visit South Cambs website.

#### **Community Chest grants**

Congratulations to Fowlmere Village Hall for its success in receiving a Community Chest grant of £2000 towards new blinds for the main hall. I encourage all community groups to consider applying for funds from the Community Chest fund, which are available for a wide range of projects that help to improve our facilities and life for residents. More information on how to apply can be found on the website. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest>

### **Cambridgeshire County Report**

The supermarket voucher scheme operated in last weeks term holiday for all eligible families in Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to run the scheme in the May half term using the Household Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions, with additional funding provided by the council.

Eligible families were automatically sent a £15 voucher via email or text on Saturday 25

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May. Any children who become eligible up until the 31 May will also receive vouchers. The voucher can be used at a choice of supermarkets. All vouchers must be claimed by 3pm on Friday 5 July.

The voucher scheme has been a huge success since it was introduced and appreciated keenly by families struggling in the current financial climate.

A survey revealed that over 70 per cent of families said the vouchers had helped them cope with the rising cost of living. More than 50 per cent said the scheme had reduced the need for them to seek other sources of support in the school holidays such as food banks.

Over 46 per cent of those responding to the survey said the vouchers had helped them buy healthier food such as fruit and vegetables for their families.

In addition to the holiday voucher scheme, there is further support available in response to the cost of living, which can be found here: [Support with the cost of living - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Further information about the Holiday Voucher Scheme, including FAQs for parents, can be found here <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/cambridgeshire-holiday-voucher-scheme>

### **Foxton/Fowlmere 26 Bus**

You will be aware after a huge number of discussions a service is retained in the village. Cllr Hobro, myself and Cllr Susan van de Ven have communicated updates.

### **Melbourn Greenway update**

Our questionnaire is on hold but will launch after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Watercourse Mapping**

There is a new tool on the County site to see who is responsible for water courses. This is becoming more important with high rainfall scenarios.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/watercourse-management>

The watercourses are colour-coded depending on type/maintenance obligations and you can find out further information about each watercourse by clicking on them. The map includes the following details in Cambridgeshire:

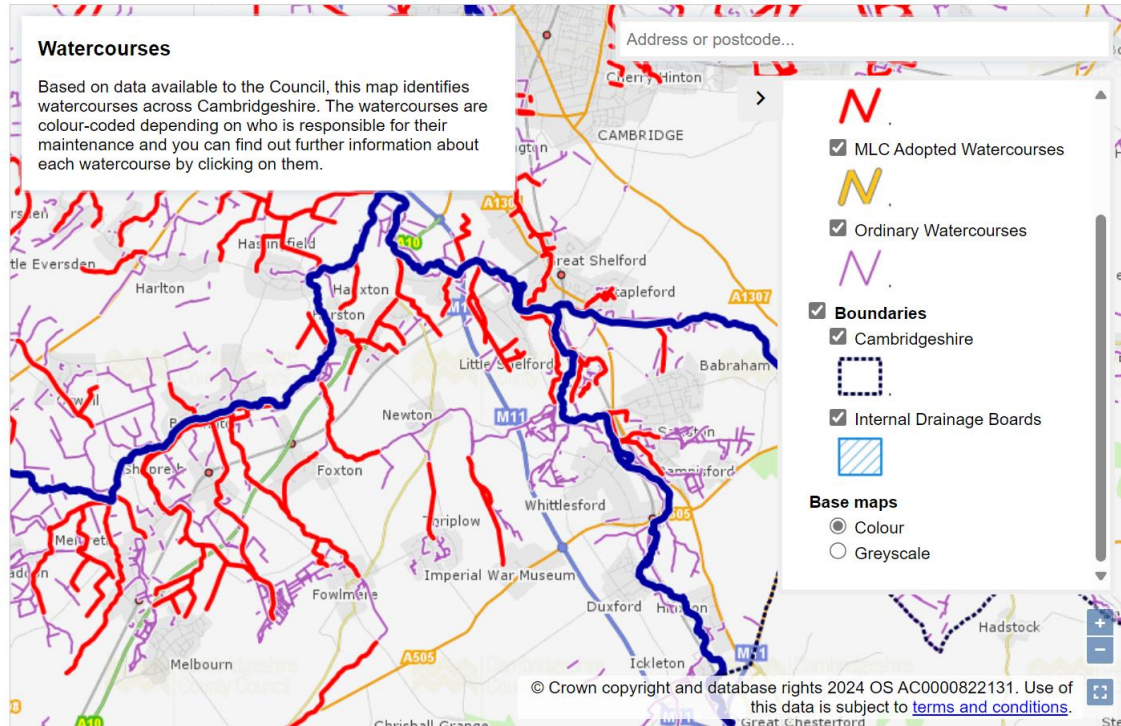
- Ordinary Watercourses
- Awarded Watercourses
- Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) Adopted Watercourses
- Main Rivers
- Internal Drainage Board Boundaries

We know there will be some watercourses, particularly the smaller ones that aren't yet

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included on the map. Over time we plan to build on this, adding in additional information wherever we can. To this end, if there are watercourses within your local area that that meet the definition on the above webpage but aren't currently included in the map, please contact us and we can discuss if it would be possible to add them in.



Peter McDonald June 2nd 2024

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