

District Councillors' report to Parish Councils July 2025

A very busy month for committees

Licensing Committee 18 June

The draft revised version of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy (which must be reviewed every five years) was approved, and is now going out to consultation. The major change was the Promotion of Equality, in a paragraph introduced to set out the Council's commitment to equality matters.

Operational Services Committee 23 June

- i. Proposed changes to planning committees by central government were considered to be not helpful, and the Council has formed a small group that will respond to the consultation and potential changes.
- ii. It was resolved to note the content of the report, and the progress made towards the implementation of the new waste and recycling collection service.
- iii. It was noted that the Committee had a revenue overspend of £195,163, when compared to its approved budget of £7,134,292, and that the Committee had a capital programme spend of £1,869,054, an underspend of £2,858,721 when compared to its revised budget. This was mostly due to deferment of essential capital spending to another year.
- iv. The Citizens Advice West Suffolk (CAWS) report was noted, and it showed how many residents of the Bottisham Ward were using this service.

Finance and Assets Committee 26 June

- i. The Climate and Nature Monitoring Report mentioned that progress was being made in some of the items in the Action Plan, but that many had not been started. The Council was encouraging households to improve energy efficiency through ECO 4 and a more flexible arrangement agreed with contractors. Mention was made of working with residents to create an accessible one-acre woodland in Bottisham.
- ii. this Committee has a yearend underspend of £1,604,245 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £7,016,768; the Council has a yearend underspend of £2,621,278 when compared to its approved budget of £18,840,342.
- iii. A sum of £102,245 has been set aside towards Inclusive Play and Open Spaces improvements and creation following the Inclusive Play Audit. *Those PCs that have not had such an Audit are encouraged to apply to ECDC as soon as possible.*
- iv. The Council was given grants from UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Business Grant Funds to help small businesses expand and train new staff. It was agreed that the Business Growth Fund will open on the 7 July 2025 and close no later than 23:59 on 5 September 2025, with all projects to be completed by 31 March 2026, and that the Rural England Prosperity Business grant fund will open early autumn 2025 and be completed by 31st March 2026. Further details from the Economic Development Manager at ECDC. Parish Councils will be notified as they may be aware of small businesses in their patch that would qualify for these grants.
- v. The Combined Authority awarded ECDC a grant of £400k to fund feasibility schemes for three cycle schemes: Ely to Stutney, Ely to Soham and Burwell to Fordham.
- vi. A Housing Strategy report was considered, and it was deemed to be lacking in strategy, but it had lots of good information and data.

Local Government Reorganisation

The ECDC Public and Stakeholder survey has now been launched. To support this, Parish Councils have been invited to attend a briefing on LGR on 9th July at 2.00pm via Teams.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp

