

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Residents and Councillors,

As we head towards spring, our district continues to navigate significant changes to local government. The move toward a single-tier unitary system is now underway, with a new Shadow Authority expected in 2027 and the full transition planned for 2028. Throughout this period, the focus remains on ensuring that local voices are heard and that decisions reflect the interests of our communities.

With the decision now taken, Huntingdonshire District Council has voted to proceed with District Council elections in May 2026. The debate leading up to the vote brought into focus the balance between maintaining democratic accountability and managing the practical demands of leadership during a major reorganisation.

For some, continuity and stability during the transition were paramount; for others, upholding the regular democratic cycle and demonstrating our capacity to deliver it were essential. Parish and Town Councils also reflected on the financial implications for local elections had the District poll been postponed.

The process has reinforced the value of transparency, resident involvement, and careful, evidence-based decision-making as we move toward a new model of local governance. Our shared priority remains unchanged: ensuring that the interests of our parish and district are clearly represented throughout this period of change.

Morris Homes Silver Street Development

Verbal update

Public consultation opens on Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire

Residents across Huntingdonshire are being invited to have their say on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation, as a public consultation officially launches today.

The consultation seeks views on how local councils could be structured in the future to deliver services more effectively and respond to the needs of communities. The proposed changes aim to create a more streamlined, efficient system that supports better decision-making and value for money. Members of Huntingdonshire District Council voted for option E as they felt it was the best choice for all of Cambridgeshire.

The consultation will run until 26 March 2026 and residents can share their views online at: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

HDC Commercial Services & Resident Support

A key priority of mine since becoming a District Councillor has been to ensure that our residents have access to high-quality, professional, and fairly priced services for tasks they often find difficult to manage alone.

Many residents struggle with the maintenance of large trees and shrubs—particularly when they encroach from beyond their property boundaries—or require reliable waste and security solutions. By utilising HDC's own **Commercial Services**, residents and local businesses can access a "trusted council brand" that prioritises community benefit over profit.

Service Directory

1. Arboriculture (Tree & Hedge Care)

Focused on safety, boundary management, and local aesthetics.

- **Tree Surveys & Professional Reports:** Professional assessments for safety and planning.
- **Risk Assessment & Management:** Identifying and mitigating potential hazards.
- **Tree Work:** Expert pruning, thinning, and cut-backs.
- **Tree Planting Site Plans:** Expert guidance for new growth and reforestation.
- **Hedge & Shrub Maintenance:** Keeping boundaries and gardens tidy.
- **Stump Grinding:** Removal of unsightly or hazardous stumps.
- **Log Supply:** Supply and delivery of seasoned logs for open fires.
- **Free Consultations:** Available for all residents to discuss their requirements.

2. Waste & Resource Management

Efficient, compliant, and environmentally conscious disposal.

- **Bulky Waste Collections & House Clearances**
- **Commercial & Residential Skip Hire**
- **Refuse & Recycling:** General, food waste, and recycling streams.
- **Specialist Bins:** Small electricals and commercial food waste.
- **Fly Tipping Removal:** Rapid response to clear local hotspots.

3. Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping

Maintaining our green spaces to the highest standards.

- **Grass Maintenance & Weed Control**
- **Floral Meadow Creation:** Enhancing local biodiversity and aesthetics.
- **Pitch Marking & Maintenance:** Professional sports field upkeep.

4. Security & Public Safety

Providing peace of mind through 24/7 monitoring and response.

- **24/7 CCTV & Emergency Help Point Monitoring**
- **Fire & Intruder Alarm Monitoring**

- **Keyholding & Response Services**
- **Mobile Security Patrols & "Lock and Unlock" Services**
- **Security Risk Assessments & Project Management**
- **Direct Digital Evidence Sharing** with Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

5. Public Realm Cleansing

Ensuring our streets and car parks remain clean, safe, and welcoming.

- **Power Washing & Sanitising:** For public areas and equipment.
- **Road, Car Park, and Leaf Sweeping**
- **Needle & Sharps Removal:** Specialist disposal for public safety.
- **Litter Bin Installation & Emptying**
- **Graffiti Removal**

The Value Proposition

The Commercial Services arm operates under the **T.R.U.S.T. / H.D.C.** framework:

Feature	Benefit to Residents
Not-for-Profit	Competitive quotes and genuine value for money.
Community Reinvestment	All revenue is re-invested into local resident services.
Fully Compliant	Fully insured, licenced, and environmentally compliant.
Local Knowledge	Knowledgeable teams who understand the district.

Contact Information

For quotes, consultations, or service enquiries:

- **Phone:** 07542 502288
- **Email:** tradewasteteam@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
- **Web:** www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste

Wishing you well,

Martin

Martin Hassall

District Councillor for Buckden, Diddington and Southoe

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