

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – MAY 2026

Dear Residents and Councillors,

I would like to begin this report by expressing my sincere gratitude to the residents of Buckden, Diddington, and Southoe for their support in the recent district elections. I am deeply honoured to have been returned to office on May 7. Serving our community remains an absolute privilege. The mandate you have given me ensures we can continue our vital work holding developers and statutory authorities to account, protecting our local infrastructure, and demanding transparent governance over the coming term.

Hinchingbrooke Logistics Park Application

I previously reported that the Hinchingbrooke Logistics Park application had been deferred to allow for additional junction information. This application has now been formally approved at the Development Management Committee (DMC) using a deeply flawed assessment methodology. Recent safety incidents near Hinchingbrooke School have highlighted significant concerns regarding how Cambridgeshire County Highways assessed this major infrastructure application.

Video evidence from the planning committee confirms that the Local Highway Authority actively relied on Department for Transport guidance that was officially withdrawn in 2014 to excuse a lack of complex junction modelling for the site around the school and hospital. I understand this reliance on obsolete safety thresholds has now been referred for formal scrutiny at the County Council, following a request made by Alconbury Parish Council to their local County Councillor.

A1 Safety Meeting - Cumulative Traffic Impact on the A1 Corridor

I recently attended the A1 Safety Group to represent local concerns regarding regional traffic capacity. Following the recent approval of the Newlands Logistics Park, explicit clarification was requested during the meeting regarding the capacity modelling currently being undertaken for the Buckden Roundabout in relation to the adjacent Silver Street housing development. Specifically, we need to establish whether the heavy goods vehicle traffic from the logistics park will be excluded from this model.

Publication of the official meeting minutes is now awaited to ensure this request has been accurately recorded. I will submit a formal written request to National Highways if the minutes fail to capture this vital issue.

Silver Street - Planning Governance and Statutory Compliance

I have formally escalated a severe governance risk regarding the original outline planning decision at Silver Street. The final decision notice was issued with a vital environmental condition omitted, which had been mandated by the Environment Agency. Crucially, this omission explains exactly why there are currently no explicit foul water conditions attached to the outline planning permission. The Monitoring Officer has acknowledged the escalation. The matter is currently subject to a formal corporate complaints investigation to establish exactly how this failure occurred before wider legal implications are reviewed.

Tackling Our Sewage and Drainage Infrastructure

Recent weeks have seen significant regulatory progress regarding the Buckden Water Recycling Centre. Following a sustained community campaign, Ofwat has formally confirmed that Anglian Water is currently subject to a legally binding enforcement investigation. The regulator mandates that the company must deliver a comprehensive Remediation and Compliance Plan to address systemic failures across their network. Ofwat is actively monitoring the situation while facilitating direct engagement between myself, in my capacity as your newly re-elected District Councillor alongside my role on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, to discuss necessary interim mitigations for our specific site directly with Anglian Water.

Local citizen science continues to play a vital role in holding these authorities to account. Recent water quality monitoring identified a highly concerning unrecorded discharge event on Tuesday 14 April. Sample results showed extreme ammonia levels coupled with unusually low phosphate readings, suggesting a fresh untreated sewage release heavily diluted by groundwater infiltration. I have formally escalated these findings to the Environment Agency, requesting a thorough investigation into this dry spill alongside an urgent explanation for the recent deployment of tankers at the facility. An algal bloom at the Marina is of further concern – over a period of 12 days, the water transitioned from a bright grey green to a cloudy grey containing brown particulate matter.

The combined pressure from Ofwat oversight alongside Environment Agency scrutiny creates a robust framework to protect our local watercourses and

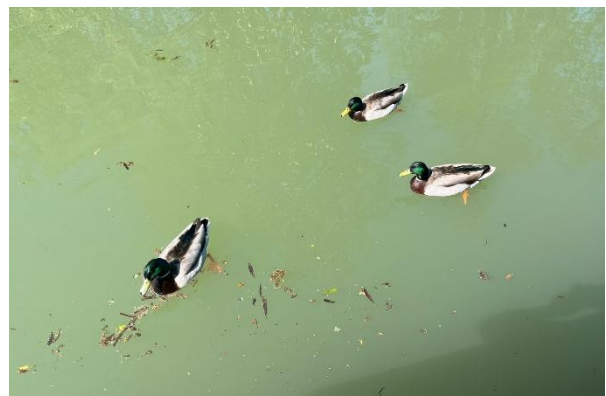


Figure 1- Algal Bloom at the Marina – Day 1

challenge premature planning applications. Following my successful re-election on May 7, I look forward to continuing this vital campaign. My immediate priority remains securing a direct meeting with Anglian Water to establish a clear timeline to address water infiltration issues, alongside any required capacity upgrades, at our local site.

Wishing you well,

Martin

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