

CHAIR'S REPORT JULY 2026

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

We have been advised by Huntingdonshire District Council that they will receive the Government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire by 16th July, at the latest. As soon as HDC is advised, they will let all the Parish and Town Councils know

OVERHANGING TREES

I need to report on a number of issues regarding overhanging trees and hedges.

The first is regarding the problem brought to me by a resident who has an overhanging tree which is in a public open space owned by Huntingdonshire District Council. I drafted a letter which the Clerk sent to HDC and the reply, unsurprisingly, reiterates the line that, although the tree is on HDC land the Council will take no action. I have contacted HDC again to ask for details of their policy and why it is that owners of trees and hedges overhanging roads and footways have a responsibility to cut them back, but not the other way round.

The second is to confirm that the work has been carried out to cut the willows behind The Old Flour Mills right down to the ground and back 3 metres behind the wall. I was told by the contractor that this should be good for 5 years.

Following on from this is the third issue, that of the continuing failure, for at least two years, of County Highways to ensure that the overhanging hedge outside Millside Marina is cut back. The difference between the action of us and them is stark.

65 BUS

Members will be aware that the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority has finally decided on a "Bus Network Review Engagement". The only service for Buckden that is affected is the 65 route through The Offords and Great Paxton to St Neots. The proposal is to replace it with the Tiger on Demand Service.

I understand that some people have found it difficult to give a response to this consultation, which runs to 28th July, but Liam, our County Councillor, has told The Offords Parish Council that he will talk to residents directly and send out letters explaining the situation. I have offered what help I can give.

PARKING ON STATION LANE, OFFORD, OUTSIDE THE OBAS CAR PARK

The problem caused by drivers parking on the footway outside the OBAS Car Park has been raised with me by a wheelchair user. Although it is just outside our Parish Boundary I have said that I would support The Offords PC in trying to improve the situation