

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Residents and Councillors,

I hope that everyone has had a great summer!!!

As summer draws to a close, I'm pleased to share a round-up of recent developments and community initiatives across our district. From new environmental services to strengthened enforcement and fraud prevention, these updates reflect Huntingdonshire District Council's (HDC's) ongoing commitment to sustainability, fairness, and public wellbeing.

This report includes key updates on the rollout of weekly food waste collections, the launch of Civil Parking Enforcement, an update on the Brampton to Grafham Quiet Way and the successful recovery of public funds through HDC's Corporate Fraud Team's investigations. Each of these initiatives strengthens our local systems and ensures that services work better for everyone.

Weekly Food Waste Collections Coming April 2026

HDC are pleased to confirm that weekly food waste collections will begin across the district in April 2026, supporting national recycling reforms and our commitment to sustainable waste management.

What residents can expect:

- From March 2026, every household will receive:
 - A 7-litre grey kitchen caddy for daily use
 - A 23-litre external grey food waste bin for weekly kerbside collection
(Both provided free of charge)

What can go in: All food waste is accepted - including raw/cooked meat and bones, dairy, eggshells, tea bags, coffee grounds, fruit and vegetables.

Why it matters: This initiative will help divert food waste from landfill, reduce environmental impact, and make recycling easier for residents.

Reducing waste at the source: HDC also encourages households to reduce food waste. Free tips and resources are available at <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>.

Further details will be shared later this year. For queries, residents can contact:

 wasteminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Civil Parking Enforcement Now Active Across Huntingdonshire

As of August 2025, Huntingdonshire District Council has officially taken over responsibility for enforcing on-street parking restrictions through **Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)**.

Key points:

- CPE launched following ministerial approval and is now active district-wide.
- In its first week, officers visited 90% of wards and issued over 250 warning notices.

- **Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)** may now be issued for:
 - Parking on double yellow lines
 - Misuse of disabled bays without a valid Blue Badge
 - Obstructive or inconsiderate parking in restricted areas

What's changed:

- No new rules - just local enforcement of existing restrictions.
- HDC's Civil Enforcement Officers now handle routine parking offences.
- Police will continue to manage serious breaches such as dangerous obstruction and moving traffic violations.

This shift aims to improve road safety, reduce inconsiderate parking, and keep our streets accessible for all.



HDC Uncovers Over £400,000 in Fraud Across Key Services

Huntingdonshire District Council's Corporate Fraud Team identified approximately **£437,000 in fraudulent activity** during the 2024/25 financial year, reinforcing the council's commitment to safeguarding public funds.

Key findings:

- **Council Tax fraud:**
 - 144 cases of wrongly claimed Single Person Discount
 - £236,961 now being recovered
- **Housing tenancy fraud:**
 - 5 cases uncovered
 - 3 social housing properties reclaimed and reallocated to families in need
- **Homes for Ukraine scheme:**
 - Misuse identified, including one prosecution resulting in a £9,900 repayment

These investigations ensure that support schemes benefit only those genuinely entitled. HDC continues to participate in the **National Fraud Initiative**, using cross-sector data matching to detect fraud and error.

Residents are encouraged to report suspected fraud confidentially via the council's Corporate Fraud Team.



Brampton to Grafham Quiet Way Pilot – Community Update

Thank you to everyone who's shared thoughts - whether through formal consultation or friendly chats along the lane. Your input has shaped the Brampton to Grafham Quiet Way pilot, and I'm pleased to share what's proposed across three phases:

Phase 1

- Gateway signage and dropped kerbs for better access
- Speed limit signs and coloured surfacing at footpath crossings
- Wooden posts with footpath markers and a new passing bay

Phase 2

- Bridge artwork and 'Slow' markings
- More passing bays and edge lining
- Cycle parking and a bench near Brampton Wood

Phase 3

- Removal of centre lines and resurfacing with edge strips
- Sculptural bench, traffic islands, and new footway near Brampton

These improvements aim to make the route safer, greener, and more inviting - setting a model for future Quietway schemes. A contractor is being appointed, and I'll share updates once works are scheduled. Minor changes may occur, but the vision remains strong.

Thanks again to all who have supported. What once felt like a distant hope is now becoming a reality – I hope that we have reached a compromise that works for all members of the community.

More info: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/active-travel-in-cambridgeshire/grafham-to-brampton-quiet-lane-pilot-project>



Join the Buckden Walking Group!



BUCKDEN
WALKING GROUP

The Buckden Walking Group is off to a fantastic start and is open to Southoe members who wish to get out and about – now with **43 members and several group walks already enjoyed together**, it's quickly becoming a great way to connect, stay active, and explore our local area.

Whether you're looking for gentle strolls, good company, or simply a reason to get outdoors, we'd love to welcome you. Scan the QR code to visit the **Facebook page** and see what the group is up to!



Prefer WhatsApp?

To join the WhatsApp group, please email me your **name and mobile number** this helps us stay GDPR-compliant and keep the group safe and inclusive.

Let's keep walking, talking, and building something special together!

Wishing you well,

Martin

Martin Hassall

District Councillor for Buckden, Diddington and Southoe

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