

SUMMER 2026

Cambridge Matters

Cambridge City Council's magazine for residents



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Front cover: The Out of the Ordinary Festival is back this August Bank Holiday weekend

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What happened in this year's city council elections?

Elections were held in all 14 of the city's wards on 7 May to elect 15 councillors to Cambridge City Council. Following the elections the city council now consists of:

- 17 Labour councillors
- 12 Green Party councillors
- 11 Liberal Democrat councillors
- 1 Conservative councillor
- 1 Your Party councillor

This means that there is no political party in overall control of Cambridge City Council, as no single party has more than half of the 42 seats on the Council.

Following the election, the political parties held discussions and came to an agreement on governing.

Cllr Katie Thornburrow of the Labour Party was elected as the new Leader of the Council and has formed a minority Labour administration. She is supported by six other Cabinet members from the Labour group, with responsibility for different council services.

The members of the Cabinet are:

- **Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Leader/ Strategy, Planning, and External Partnerships**
- **Cllr Rosy Moore, Deputy Leader/ Climate Action and Environment**
- **Cllr Martin Smart, Nature, Open Spaces and City Services**
- **Cllr Mike Todd-Jones, Communities**
- **Cllr Gerri Bird, Housing**
- **Cllr Jenny Gawthroppe Wood, Finance**
- **Cllr Antoinette Nestor, Economy and Resources**

Following her election as Leader of Cambridge City Council, Cllr Thornburrow pledged to work constructively and collaboratively with elected councillors from other political parties in the interests of Cambridge residents.



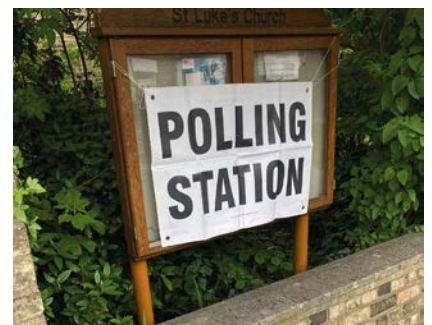
Cllr Katie Thornburrow (centre), Leader of Cambridge City Council with Cllr Naomi Bennett (left) Leader of the Green Group and Cllr Tim Bick, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Cllr Thornburrow said: "Residents expect us to focus on the issues that matter most to them – delivering good quality housing, protecting vital local services, supporting communities through the cost-of-living crisis and ensuring Cambridge grows sustainably and fairly.

"That means we will need to work constructively with colleagues from across the council to deliver for residents and find common ground where we can.

"Cambridge faces significant challenges and opportunities in the years ahead, and I am committed to providing stable, collaborative leadership focused on achieving the best outcomes for our city."

You can find contact details for all 42 city councillors on page 23 of this issue. For more information about how the council works, and control of the council visit cambridge.gov.uk/about-the-council



Contact Cambridge City Council



It's often easier to contact us online, at a time that suits you. You can complete a short form to report things like flytipping – cambridge.gov.uk/report-flytipping, a missed bin collection – cambridge.gov.uk/report-a-missed-household-bin-collection, or a change in your circumstances affecting your benefits or Council Tax – cambridge.gov.uk/online-accounts.

- ✉ cambridge.gov.uk
- ☎ 01223 457000, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.15pm
- ☎ 0300 3038 389, for emergencies outside of office hours
- 📍 Appointments are available for customers who have queries which cannot be resolved by telephone or online. Call us for help.

Appointments are available 9am to 5.15pm, Wednesday to Friday, at our Customer Service Centre at Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY.

Please note that we no longer operate customer services from the Guildhall.

Council news in brief

New public toilets open in historic city centre

New public conveniences at Silver Street Bridge in Cambridge's historic city centre have recently been completed.

The toilets were designed by award-winning architects firm Gort Scott, to replace an old toilet block dating back to the 1980s which had fallen into disrepair. They have been designed to meet the needs of many thousands of international visitors and to fit in seamlessly with their historic surroundings and iconic riverside location.

The new building at bridge level also has features to encourage biodiversity, with bat and bird boxes, and spaces for solitary pollinating insects plus a publicly accessible water fountain and new wooden benches nearby.



New Mayor of Cambridge takes up chains of office

At the council's Annual Meeting on 21 May, Cllr Maria Cleminson was elected to be Mayor of Cambridge for the next 12 months, with Cllr Amanda Taylor elected as Deputy Mayor.

The new Mayor's duties include chairing full council meetings and attending hundreds of events and civic engagements on behalf of the city. The Mayor of Cambridge's role is ceremonial, and dates back to 1207 when Cambridge was granted a royal charter.



The new Mayor, Cllr Maria Cleminson with former Mayor Dinah Pounds

Sensory light and sound at King's Hedges Pool



A new £45,000 sensory lighting and sound system has recently been installed at King's Hedges Learner Pool.

The new installation is designed to support children and young people with sensory needs, and help create an environment where they can feel safe and engaged.

Among the features of the new system are enhanced lighting, a new audio system

which allows lights to change in sync with music, and adjustable blinds for the windows in the swimming pool area.

The sensory enhanced pool will now host dedicated sessions for SEND schools, as well as weekend 'Sensory Swim for All' sessions, ensuring families, carers and young people can access the facility in a way that suits their needs.



Follow our Butterfly Trail this summer!

Summertime is a great time to spot the wide variety of butterflies and moths that live in Cambridge.

To make it even more enjoyable, you can follow our Butterfly Trail around the city – look out for marker posts in 30 different parks and open spaces, with information about different species.

You can also collect rubbings from the plaques on the marker posts – just download a sheet from our website or pick one up from a community centre. If you collect 15 different rubbings, send them in and you could win one of 20 pairs of tickets for the Botanic Garden!



For more information visit:
cambridge.gov.uk/butterfly-trail
nature@cambridge.gov.uk

Cambridge Folk Festival Presents... Folk around the city this summer

NOW BOOKING



Cambridge Folk Festival, organised by Cambridge City Council, is set to

reach new audiences this summer with a citywide programme of music and events.

One of the UK's most celebrated summer festivals, the Cambridge Folk Festival will culminate in a two-day sold-out celebration on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 August at its iconic home, Cherry Hinton Hall. But this year, we're also partnering with local venues, promoters, and folk clubs to present an expanded schedule of concerts across Cambridge in the run-up to the main festival weekend.

Highlights include performances at the Cambridge Corn Exchange on Saturday 25 July which will see **John Cooper Clarke** return to Cambridge with special guests Brian Bilston and The Catenary Wires, Henry Normal and Jan Brierton and Mike Garry and Toria Garbutt –

before the venue hosts a **family ceilidh** on Sunday 26 July courtesy of Cambridge Ceilidh All Stars. Other exciting events to look out for include:

- **Folk on a Boat** with I am Kloot front man John Bramwell (Thurs 23 July)
- **Thea Gilmore** live at Storey's Field Centre (Fri 24 July)
- **Tradfest** – live music at various locations along Mill Road (Sat 25 July)
- **Willow weaving workshop** at the Corn Exchange (Sat 25 July)
- **Quiz Night** at Parker's Tavern (Tues 28 July)
- **Frankie Archer** at The Portland Arms (Wed 29 July)
- **Big Deal Comedy** – with a folk twist at the Town and Gown (Fri 31 July)
- **Katherine Priddy** playing a special gig at Great St Mary's Church (Fri 31 July)

Cambridge Ceilidh All Stars



Frankie Archer



For complete listings and to book tickets, visit: cambridgefolkfestival.co.uk

FREE FAMILY FUN!

Join the fun to celebrate Cambridge's 75th anniversary

This year we're celebrating Cambridge reaching the grand old age of 75 since it officially became a city. We were only granted city status in 1951, by King George VI, having previously been classified as a 'town'.

So what better way to celebrate than by inviting everyone to join in the 75th anniversary festivities with a special day of activities and entertainment on **Jesus Green on Sunday 12 July**.

There'll be a DJ set from TV favourite Paul Chuckle, live music from acts including the chart-topping glam psychedelia of Doctor and the Medics, plus ska and reggae from local



favourites Big Ten and the danceable energetic sounds of the Brass Funkys. In addition, there'll be kids' fun areas, walkabout characters, stalls, food, drink and one or two surprises.

People will also have the chance to take a look at some

of the historic royal charters of Cambridge, which have recently been rediscovered and restored in time for the 75th anniversary.

The royal charters are precious documents which reflect the developing



relationship across the centuries between Cambridge and the Crown under a succession of monarchs. The oldest dates all the way back to the 13th Century reign of King John, who first granted Cambridge the right to have its own Mayor.

For more details visit: cambridge.gov.uk/summer-events



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Tell us what you think about Cambridge Matters... and win a £50 voucher!



We're planning to refresh the look of Cambridge Matters magazine over the next few months, and we'd love you, our readers, to help us shape it.

We've put together a short online survey with a few simple questions asking what you think about the magazine, what you find useful, and how it could be improved. To take part just use the QR code here, visit engage.cambridge.gov.uk, or if you'd prefer us to send you the questions email

communications@cambridge.gov.uk by 12 July.

Everyone taking part in the survey will have the chance to win a £50 Love Cambridge gift card, which can be used at a huge variety of businesses across the city, including shops, restaurants, bars, beauty salons, and many more.



Your Cambridge council is preparing for change

As you may already know, local councils in Cambridge – and across the country are changing.

The Government is going ahead with plans to replace the existing district, city and county councils to create fewer, new, 'unitary' councils across the country.

This means that from May 2028, Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council (along with neighbouring district and county councils) will no longer exist, and will be replaced with new councils to provide all of the services which are currently provided by city, district and county councils.

Earlier this year, the Government held a public consultation on various options for how the councils could be reorganised in Cambridgeshire, and we are now expecting them to make an announcement on their preferred option before parliamentary recess in July.

Ahead of the consultation, the then leaders of Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire

District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council publicly stated their preference for a reorganisation which would see:

- A 'Greater Cambridge' council, covering Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire
- A North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough council, covering East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough.

Three other suggestions were put forward by other councils – the government may choose any of those four options or another configuration altogether.

Following the government's announcement, the new unitary councils are then due to begin operating in a 'shadow' capacity after local elections in May 2027, and will then take on full responsibility for delivering all services from April 2028.

Councils will be working closely together during this period to ensure that services continue to be provided as normal and that residents are not affected.



For more information on Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire visit: cambridge.gov.uk/lgr or look out for more information in the next issue of Cambridge Matters.

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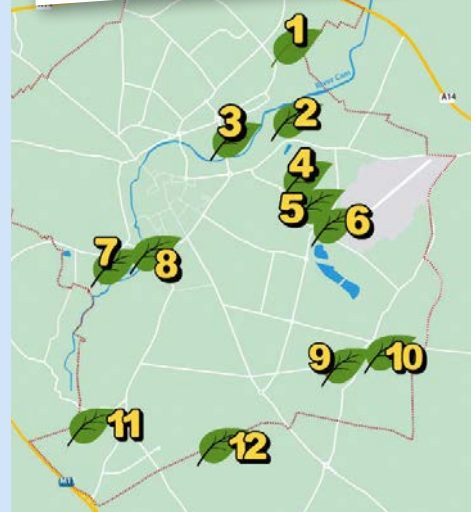
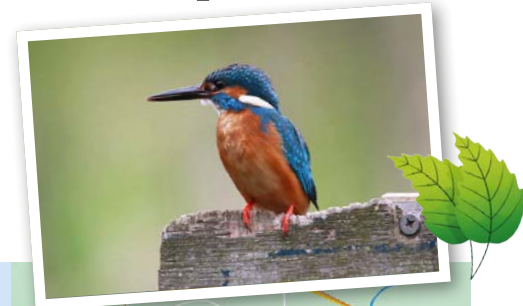
20 Norman Way Industrial Park, Over, Cambridge CB24 5QE

Two new nature reserves for Cherry Hinton

Two new sites are set to be officially designated as Local Nature Reserves later this year.

The two new reserves – Fulbourn Road Open Space and Church End – are already important local spaces for nature, supporting breeding birds, pollinators, and bats.

When they become the city's 13th and 14th Local Nature Reserves later this year, they will benefit from increased protection and enhanced management to look after their chalk grassland and woodland habitats, so the whole community can enjoy them for years to come.



Visit a local nature reserve!

Our local nature reserves help protect some of the city's best habitats and geographical features, and let you enjoy nature on your doorstep.

- 1 **Bramblefields:** Laxton Way CB4 1FL
- 2 **Stourbridge Common:** Oyster Row CB5 8NS
- 3 **Logan's Meadow:** Logan's Way CB4 1BL
- 4 **Coldham's Common:** Coldham's Lane CB1 3JB
- 5 **Barnwell West:** Barnwell Road CB5 8RE
- 6 **Barnwell East:** Uphall Road CB1 3HX
- 7 **Paradise:** Lammas Land CB3 9JJ
- 8 **Sheep's Green and Coe Fen:** Fen Causeway CB2 7AD
- 9 **West Pit:** Limekiln Road CB1 8NQ
- 10 **East Pit and Limekiln Close:** Limekiln Road CB1 8NQ
- 11 **Byron's Pool:** Grantchester Road CB2 9LH
- 12 **Nine Wells:** Off Granhams Road CB22 5LQ

Visit cambridge.gov.uk/nature-reserves for full information.

When is a weed not a weed?

Nature-loving neighbours in Cambridge have been trying to change the image of pavement 'weeds'.

Groups of residents spent a morning scouring their street for cheeky plants pushing their way through cracks between pathways and walls.

The volunteers — members of the local Happy Bee Streets team supported by the council — then identified them and chalked their names alongside them on the pavements of Gurney Way in West Chesterton. Residents of neighbouring Ascham Road and Atherton Close also took part.

The idea was to draw attention to these often unloved plants and encourage passers-by to see that far from being "weeds" they are important sources of



pollen and nectar for pollinating insects like bees. They also provide seeds for other wildlife.

Event organiser Anne Rivington said: "There was a great response to the chalkings from children and passers-by.

"Our streets became herbicide free in September 2022, six months before the rest of the city. Cambridge City

Council agreed to stop spraying them and in return our Bee Streets team of local residents agreed to look after the plants on our pavements.

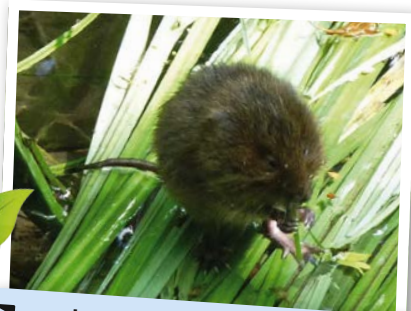
"We still do this and leave as many as we can to flower and seed but remove rogue plants like buddleia and barley grass and any that fall across the pavements.

📌 We're relaunching our Happy Bee and Butterfly Street scheme this year. Visit cambridge.gov.uk/happy-bee-scheme soon to find out more!

Water voles go with the flow in city

If you've been along Cherry Hinton Brook recently you may have noticed that the water vole population there is doing well in stretches that were recently restored as part of the Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project.

Recent inspections have identified multiple new water vole burrows within the restored banks. The restoration approach was designed to reduce erosion while improving long-term habitat quality for wildlife, so it is encouraging already to see clear evidence of active water vole use at the site.



📌 cambridge.gov.uk/chalk-streams



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Bawds

QUIZ

By James Graham, Bob Wiffinden, James Plaskett

April 2003 and Major Charles Ingram stands accused of cheating his way to £1 million. Is he guilty? You decide.

TUE 07 - SAT 11 JULY AT 7.45PM
SAT 11 JULY AT 2.30PM

Combined Actors of Cambridge

NELL GWYNN

By Jessica Swale

An unapologetically bawdy romp through the infamous life of the king's favourite mistress. Expect plenty of laughs as Nell Gwynn shocks and seduces in equal measure!

TUE 14 - SAT 18 JULY AT 7.45PM
SAT 18 JULY AT 2.30PM

National Performing Academy

MATILDA THE MUSICAL JR.

By Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin, based on the book by Roald Dahl
Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs, the National Performing Academy's Young Drama Cambridge programme promise to delight audiences with the story of this special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

WED 22 - SAT 25 JULY AT 7PM
SAT 25 JULY AT 2.30PM

Cambridge Improv Factory

MURDER MOST UNEXPECTED

Murder! But whodunnit? The truth is in your hands!
Local comedy legends Cambridge Improv Factory are back to unravel a hilarious tale of twists, turns, and suspicious characters - all inspired by your suggestions!

WED 29 JULY - SAT 01 AUGUST AT 7.45PM
SAT 01 AUGUST AT 2.30PM



Into the Woods, March 2026 (Photo by Anna Gungaloo)



FREE online booking at www.adctheatre.com or call 01223 300085

Expect the unexpected... with Out of the Ordinary

For a truly unforgettable experience, don't miss the spectacular **Out of the Ordinary Festival** on 29 and 30 August.

This free outdoor arts festival fills Cambridge's historic streets and open spaces with creativity, colour and wonder. Acclaimed performers from across the globe will transform the city centre with dazzling displays, larger-than-life characters, comedy, music and breathtaking visual theatre.

Local community groups and talented young performers will also take centre stage, making this one of Cambridge's most exciting summer celebrations.

 For more information visit:
 camcityevents.co.uk



Mayor's Day Out takes to the beach this August



Oh do you like to be beside the seaside? Well if you're a Cambridge resident aged 55 or over, why not get on board for this year's Mayor's Day Out on 11 August?

A coach will be taking the Mayor and some of Cambridge's seniors on a great day out in Norfolk, visiting the golden sands of Great Yarmouth. You can enjoy

live entertainment, a fish and chip lunch and then dip your toes in the sea to cool off. All for just £10 per person!

 To book a place visit:
 camcityevents.co.uk
or phone
 01223 357851

Make the most of Summer Fun and activities for :

Looking for ways to keep the children (and yourself) entertained this summer without stretching the budget?

Hello Summer!

Packed with inspiration, activities and events, our **Hello Summer** booklet is your essential guide to an unforgettable summer in Cambridge. From exciting bookable activities and relaxed drop-in sessions to vibrant community events, there's something for every age, interest and energy level. Look out for our Hello Summer Launch events taking place in the first week of the holidays – a fantastic opportunity for a sneaky peek at some of the activities that will be available to them across the summer.

1 Wednesday 22 July, 11am to 2pm: **Hello Summer launch event** at Nightingale Pavilion Community Room

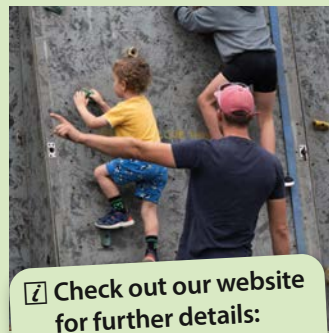
2 Friday 24 July, 2pm to 5pm: **Hello Summer launch event** at Brown's Field Community Centre

Best of all, many activities are completely free. The booklet is available to download now from the Cambridge City Council website.

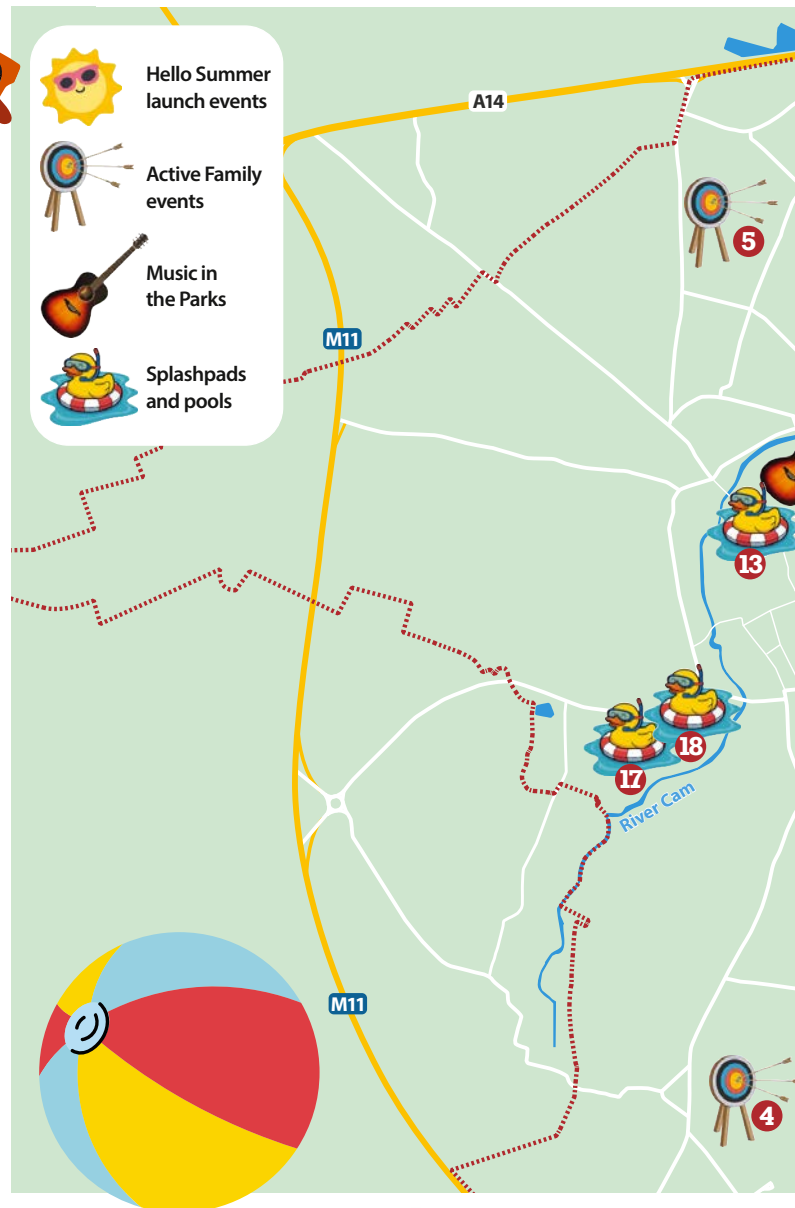
This year's summer holiday programme – which is funded by grants from the city council

to more than 40 local organisations – will offer something to satisfy everyone's interests with the city bursting with opportunities to play, explore, create and connect. There will be loads of opportunities for children and families to join in with everything from gaming workshops, music and dance sessions and LEGO building to community sports, fishing, climbing, laser tag, foraging, capoeira and so much more.

There's an adventure waiting around every corner, with details and booking available on the council website from 6 July, and events every Monday to Friday from 20 July to 28 August.



Check out our website for further details:
cambridge.gov.uk/summer-events



Get moving on Active Family Tuesdays

This summer, we are bringing families together with a fantastic programme of **FREE Active Family events**.

Join us on Tuesdays throughout the summer holidays at some of Cambridge's larger parks and open spaces for family-friendly sessions filled with laughter, adventure and plenty of fun ways to get active together. Whether you're a budding athlete, an energetic

explorer or simply looking for a fun day out, these sessions are designed for all ages and abilities.

Drop into the Family Play Zone, where you can enjoy everything from skipping ropes and hula hoops to space hoppers and ball games. Local sports clubs will also be on hand, offering a huge range of activities to try including football, short tennis, orienteering, skating, scooting, archery, table tennis,

family fitness, dance sessions and even a thrilling bouldering wall.

Complete the on-the-day activity challenge for your chance to win a medal - and discover how you can stay active all year round.



Active Family Tuesdays, 10am–2pm

3 Tuesday 28 July – Coldham's Common, near Abbey Leisure Complex

4 Tuesday 4 August – Trumpington Recreation Ground, Paget Road

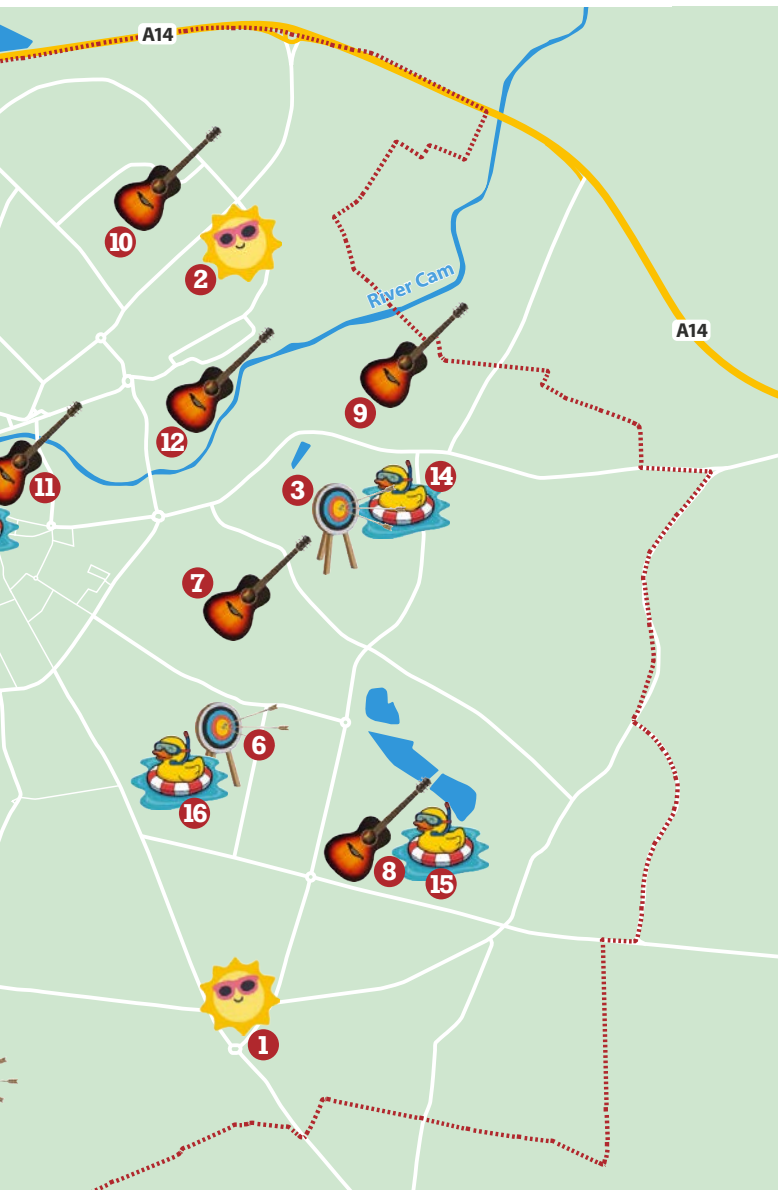
5 Tuesday 11 August – St Albans Recreation Ground, St Alban's Road, Arbury

6 Tuesday 18 August – Coleridge Recreation Ground, Davy Road

Summer in the city! for people of all ages

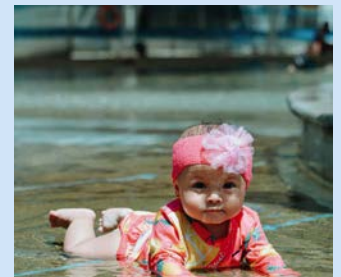


on a tight budget? Cambridge City Council has everything you need to make this a holiday to remember.



Keep cool in the pool (or at the splashpad...)

If this summer is anything like last year, there could be several days where you are looking to cool off and escape from the heat, and our pools and splashpads are just the place!



13 Jesus Green Lido, situated on the edge of Jesus Green, alongside the River Cam is one of the longest outdoor pools in Britain (at 91 metres – almost four times longer than Parkside or Abbey Pools). It offers a unique place to swim, sunbathe and relax during the warmer months, surrounded by grass and patio areas, with its own café and sauna.

As well as the Lido, the council has several paddling pools and splashpad water play areas in parks across the city, which are now open until September.

15 Cherry Hinton water play area – Two paddling pools in the play area at Cherry Hinton Hall off Cherry Hinton Road.

16 Coleridge splashpad – Splashpad with water play equipment and paddling areas at Coleridge Recreation Ground on Davy Road

17 Lammas Land pool – Free shallow pool for paddling and swimming beside the play area on Lammas Land off Barton Road.

14 Abbey Leisure complex – Children's splashpad behind the main indoor pool and fitness centre, with 11 fun water features like spray jets, water cannons and fountains. Located on Whitehill Road beside Coldham's Common.

18 Sheep's Green learner pool – Beside the Cam off Fen Causeway near Lammas Land, this small swimming pool is free to use with changing facilities and lifeguards.

Our King's Hedges splashpad at Pulley play area is currently being renovated.

Picnics, parks and perfect summer sounds

If lazy summer afternoons are more your style, pack a picnic and head to one of Cambridge's much-loved **Music in the Parks** concerts.

Returning this June, this popular annual tradition transforms some of the city's most beautiful green spaces into open-air concert venues. Across six free Sunday afternoon performances, audiences can enjoy an uplifting

mix of musical styles- from stirring brass bands and soaring choral harmonies to joyful wind ensembles and a special folk-themed performance presented in partnership with Cambridge Folk Festival at Cherry Hinton Hall.

And because no summer afternoon is complete without great food, delicious treats will be available from NapolEat Pizza and Cambridge favourite Jack's Gelato.

Music in the Parks is free, family-friendly and open to everyone on the following Sunday afternoons from 3pm-5pm:

7 21 June - Waterbeach Brass, Romsey Recreation Ground

8 28 June - Cambridge Wind Band, Cherry Hinton Hall

9 5 July - Some Voices Choir + support, Dudley Road Rec

10 26 July - Chris Fox & Lizzy Hardingham (Cambridge Folk

Festival), Nuns Way Rec –

11 9 August - City of Cambridge Brass Band, Jesus Green

12 6 September - Soham Comrades Band, Chesterton Rec



Shaping the future of Greater Cambridge together

Earlier this year, residents and communities across Greater Cambridge were invited to comment on the draft **Greater Cambridge Local Plan**, an important document that will guide how Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire grow over the coming years.

The eight-week consultation, which ran from December 2025 to January 2026, generated a strong response. Over **7,000 comments** were submitted by residents, community groups, businesses and organisations. To support this, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) hosted **32 inperson events**, attended markets and fairs, delivered leaflet dropoffs in public spaces, and ran **four online webinars**, giving people a range of ways to get involved.

The Local Plan sets out where new homes and workplaces may be built to meet future needs, alongside the infrastructure that supports them - such as transport, schools, health services, green spaces and community facilities.

All comments received during the consultation are now being carefully reviewed by planning officers. This feedback will help shape the next version of the Plan, known as the **Proposed Submission Local Plan**. This will be



published for consultation in **Summer 2026**, ahead of its submission for Independent Examination later in the year. The next consultation will focus on whether the Plan meets legal requirements and is supported by robust evidence.

Alongside community feedback, young people have also been given a voice in shaping the Plan's longterm vision. During the consultation period, the Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service (YES) worked with the Planning Policy

Team to run design workshops with pupils at local schools. Students explored themes such as climate change, biodiversity, wellbeing, homes and infrastructure, sharing ideas about the kind of places they want to see in the future.

• Just before this issue of Cambridge Matters went to print, the government confirmed its intention to set up a new Development Corporation for the Greater Cambridge area. The government says that it will help to deliver thousands of new homes, jobs, and transport links in a major move to unlock growth in the region. This

may eventually lead to some changes in how developers seek planning approval for larger developments, but it shouldn't have any impact on how individual households seek planning approval for smaller projects. The new Greater Cambridge Local Plan, as covered on this page, will still be a key influence shaping development in the coming years.



Further details about the next consultation will be shared soon. To keep up to date, visit: www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan

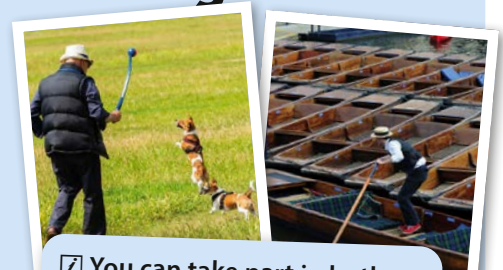
Have your say on punt touting and dog control

We are currently asking people for their views on two different Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for Cambridge, covering punt touting and dog control in Cambridge.

PSPOs were created to deal with specific issues in public spaces which can have a negative impact on the local community's quality of life. A PSPO does this by stopping certain activities in the area it covers.

Back in 2016, we introduced a PSPO to prevent punt touting in certain parts of the city – we now need your input to help us decide whether to renew this,

In addition, we are asking for views on a proposal to help address issues related to the small minority of dog owners who behave irresponsibly in public spaces, to reduce dog fouling, ensure dogs are kept under control and stop dogs entering some areas which are restricted.



You can take part in both surveys until Sunday 12 July on our consultation website: engage.cambridge.gov.uk



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Why we're committed to building more council homes in Cambridge

Over the last few years we've been one of the most prolific councils in the country at building new council homes, through our partnership with housebuilders Hill – the Cambridge Investment Partnership.

Since 2018 we've built 1,150 new homes in Cambridge to help tackle the acute shortage of affordable housing here. More than 700 of these have been council homes, with a further 400 houses built for open sale to help finance our housebuilding programme in a city where land is very expensive. We're now also committed to building a further 1,000 council homes



Aragon Close/Sackville Colose



Timberworks, Cromwell Road

and another 1,000 private sale homes in the next 10 years.

Our approach is often to redevelop in places where current council homes would need a lot of extremely expensive work to bring them up to modern standards - this

also provides an opportunity to replace older homes with high quality new homes, and increase the number of council homes. As well as redeveloping the sites of existing council homes, we also build new homes on other council-owned land, such as garage blocks and our old council depot off Mill Road, as well as on sites where businesses used to operate, like the old Murketts

dealership on Histon Road.

Our rehoming programme ensures that every tenant affected by estate regeneration receives personalised support, including financial compensation, relocation advice and logistical help, the right to return to a new home in the redeveloped estate and prioritised access to high-quality new-build council homes.

At **East Barnwell** we're well under way with work to replace 18 ageing flats with 120 new council homes plus a new public library, a pre-school, open spaces and commercial units - to create a thriving new neighbourhood in Abbey ward off Barnwell Road and Newmarket Road.



East Barnwell

In Coleridge ward, work is also progressing at **Fanshawe Road** – to replace 30 ageing homes built in the 1950s with 84 much-needed sustainable homes, comprising 45 council homes and a further 39 market sale homes.



Fanshawe Road

Meanwhile, plans are now taking shape for the full redevelopment of former sheltered housing at **Stanton House**, on Christchurch Street near The Grafton shopping centre. Work is expected to start later this year on building 29 modern, one-two- and three-bedroom council homes close to the city centre to replace the previous accommodation which no longer met modern requirements.



Stanton House

What residents think...

“ Diana Minns lived in her council flat at Hanover and Princess Courts off Hills Road for almost 23 years before moving to CIP's Ironworks



development off Mill Road. Diana said, “It was a huge decision to leave the place I'd lived the longest, but the council's support made the move possible, both practically and emotionally. I love that my new flat is energy efficient, quiet and healthy to live in. If regeneration happens in your area, seize the opportunity; it can be the start of something positive.” ”

Turning food waste into energy

Over half of the residents of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are now receiving weekly food waste collections as part of the government's recent legislation that requires all councils to provide this service. So far, we have collected over 400 tonnes.

Separate from green bin garden waste, the food waste is taken to one of three anaerobic digestion facilities; one of which is Biogen, near Baldock.

Anaerobic digestion is a natural process that converts food waste into renewable electricity, heat, and nutrients,

helping reduce carbon emissions and support a circular economy.

How it works

1 The first stage of the process is de-packaging, which mechanically removes plastic caddy liners. The remaining food waste is then mixed, ready for digestion.

2 Next, it's fed into large tanks called anaerobic digesters. Inside these tanks there is no oxygen, which creates the right conditions for natural bacteria to break down the food waste.



As it breaks down, it produces biogas and a liquid residue known as digestate.

3 The biogas is collected, stored, then used to produce electricity which feeds into the National Grid. It also produces heat, which can be used on site or supplied to nearby homes, businesses or industrial buildings.

4 After the digestion process, the remaining digestate is treated to remove harmful bacteria and

made safe to use. It's then stored before being used as a biofertiliser in farming – returning valuable nutrients to the soil and reducing the need for chemicals.

5 Anaerobic digestion offers a practical way to process food waste. It highlights the value of food waste as a resource by producing clean energy and supporting sustainable farming. Because of these benefits, it is also more cost effective compared with industrial composting.

“ Biogen is pleased to accept some of Cambridgeshire's food waste for processing at our local Anaerobic Digestion facility near Baldock. This facility processes up to 53,000 tonnes of food waste per annum to generate up to 2.7MW of renewable electricity per year for the National Grid. Just one full food waste caddy can produce enough energy to power a TV for two hours. Every peeling, scraped plate, and tea bag makes a big difference! ”



Darren, Local Authority and Commercial Development Manager at Biogen



Biogen's anaerobic digestion facility near Baldock

📄 If food waste collections have started in your area, we'd love you to share your feedback by completing our short survey. Scan the QR code or visit www.greatercambridgewaste.org/foodwaste where you'll find more information and can check when the service will start in your area (if it hasn't already).



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Making your home more resilient in a heatwave

Summer sunshine is lovely, but climate change is making summers hotter and with an increasing risk of severe heatwaves. Cambridge is the UK's heatwave hotspot so Cambridge Carbon Footprint, supported by Cambridge City Council, and Carbon Neutral Cambridge are raising awareness of what you can do to make your home cooler in a heatwave and be heatwave resilient...



Keep the summer sun out of your home: Ideally use external shading, from awnings, blinds, shutters or plants. If that's not possible, draw internal blinds and curtains.



Keep your windows closed during the heat of the day but open them (if safe) when the air feels cooler outside, and try to get the cooler air flowing through the home.



Make sure that any hot water tanks and pipes are well insulated, and that your central heating and any unnecessary appliances, which may generate heat, are turned off.



Growing plants outside can provide shade, which may be particularly helpful in front of south-facing windows, while plants inside may help cool the air.



You can join a free online talk called 'Get Ready for Heatwaves' on 30 June, part-funded by Cambridge City Council's Sustainable City Grant and organised by Cambridge Carbon Footprint.

For more information visit: cambridgecarbonfootprint.org

Fresh flavours, new beginnings at Meadows



Something special is taking shape at Meadows Community Centre - and local residents won't have long to wait to see (and taste) it for themselves.

Following earlier plans to create a vibrant, community-focused café space, work on the new facility is now nearing completion. The project, designed to bring people together through food, skills, and shared experiences, is moving into its final stages, with an opening expected before the end of the summer.

The Arbury Social, operated by Cambridge Sustainable Food, won't be just any café.

From the outset, residents and community centre users have been sharing their thoughts on what the café should offer - from menu preferences and pricing to the overall feel of the space.

The result? A café shaped by the people who will use it.

Alongside offering freshly prepared food, the café is set to champion local produce and practical food skills. The aim is to create opportunities not only to eat well but to learn, connect, and grow confidence.

Behind the scenes, work is also underway to develop a menu that reflects both community tastes and the café's wider social aims.

Keep an eye out for further updates as opening day approaches.

Renters' Rights Act empowers tenants

In November, the Renters' Rights Act became law, strengthening the rights of tenants living in private rented accommodation.

Implementation of the Act is being phased in and measures introduced from 1 May include an end to 'no fault' evictions, a practice that has contributed to rising homelessness. The Act empowers tenants to challenge poor conditions and unreasonable rent increases, and gives renters the right to end tenancies with two months' notice, bring an end to bidding wars and stop landlords from demanding more than one month's rent upfront. Tenants are now able to challenge unfair rent increases and ask to keep a pet - something landlords can't say no to without a good reason.

The Act is tackling discrimination by banning landlords and agents from



refusing tenants (for example if they have children or receive benefits), bringing the Decent Homes Standard and Awaab's Law into the private rented sector for the first time and strengthening enforcement powers against landlords who breach the legislation.

Our Housing Advice Service can support and advise landlords and tenants on all aspects of the Act, such as changes required in

documentation, safety compliance, obligations when advertising a property and finding a tenant, and the referencing processes. We can provide early intervention support to tenants in difficulty, helping them sustain their tenancy or move to alternative accommodation.

More information at: cambridge.gov.uk/housing-advice


More information at: cambridge.gov.uk/community-centres

Meet your ward councillors

There are three councillors elected to represent you in each Cambridge ward. Here's how to contact them.

Abbey

 **Maria Cleminson** (Mayor) Green ●
maria.cleminson@cambridge.gov.uk

 **Naomi Bennett** Green ●
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 **Elliot Tong** Green ●
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Arbury

 **Sefira Davison** Green ●
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 **Patrick Sheil** Labour ●
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 **Mike Todd-Jones** Labour & Co-operative ●
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Castle


 **Antoinette Nestor** Labour ●
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Cherry Hinton

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