

# WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

April 2026



Your forum to find out what's been happening in Witcham over the last year and to ask about the activities of the Council and village clubs organisations. Please do join us for the

<https://www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk>  
Email: [Clerk@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## WITCHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Wednesday 6 May 2026 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Come along and share your ideas and concerns for the village.

Agenda and further details will follow on the parish noticeboard at the crossroads and <https://www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk>

### Witcham Neighbourhood Plan

A big thank you to everyone that has given their time and skills in helping to produce the 'Plan' which we began talking about in Autumn 2021, with a working group being established in June 2022 after the Annual Parish Meeting. It has been a lot of work and tremendous effort to steer this project and achieve completion with ECDC having 'Made' (adopted) the Plan at its Council meeting on 24 February 2026. This will now form part of the criteria for determining planning applications within the Parish and is annexed to the District's Local Plan. The village referendum achieved a turnout rate of 41.4%, with 141 votes for Yes and 14 votes for No. This was a very good turnout rate for a Neighbourhood Plan referendum. Well done Witcham.

Search Neighbourhood Plans on the [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk) website. Scroll down to Witcham Neighbourhood Plan for a copy of the 'Made' Plan and lots more information.

The Parish Council will now be reviewing the Community Actions identified in the survey for the Neighbourhood Plan, focussing on reducing speed and improving footpath connections to Mepal, improving cemetery space, supporting the work of community led groups for wildlife, nature conservation and 'greening' Witcham, Community Speedwatch and Neighbourhood Watch.

### Anglian Water

We know there has been issues regarding low pressure water supply at various times. We have engaged with Anglian Water and they have investigated. They would like to hear from residents experiencing problems as and when they occur. Please report on 03457 145 145. Also, let us know so we can log for evidence in future.

### Local Government Reorganisation

Proposals for unitary authorities covering all of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are well underway. Submissions from Cambridgeshire County Council, the Fenland, East Cambs, South Cambs, and Huntingdon District Councils, and the Cambridge and Peterborough City Councils have been made to the Government. Consultation stage (survey) ended 26 March.

The Secretary of State will consider responses and announce the new unitary authorities later this year. Elections are planned for May 2027 with the new authorities going live in April 2028.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-government-reorganisation-policy-and-programme-updates>

Elections for Witcham Parish Council will be May 2027. Interested persons may contact the Clerk when details for nominations etc are issued by ECDC Electoral Department early next year.

### Horseriders

A reminder for all riders – **Be Seen** by motor vehicles emerging from entrances and on our roads and lanes. Please be sure to wear your Hi-Viz clothing - all seasons!!

### New Bins - 1 June 2026

ECDC will be providing 5 litre kitchen caddy bins and 23 litre outdoor caddy bins for **food waste**, to be used and collected weekly from June this year.

The black bag will be replaced by a 180 litre black bin, collected at 2-weekly intervals, for items that can't be recycled or composted, like nappies/sanitary waste, polystyrene, cat litter, dog waste, broken glass and crockery (wrapped). NOT for batteries, vapes and electrical items (fire risk if get crushed in lorries so take these to shops that recycle or the Witchford Recycling Centre in the proper bays).

From June you can recycle soft plastics, eg bread bags, crisp packets, salad bags and plastic film on food containers, via your blue bin system. Remember to rinse all food containers first. An extra blue bin is available from ECDC after 1 April 2026 free of charge.

Bins must be ready for collection by 7am on your collection day and not before 6pm on the evening before.

Some supermarkets/shops have a recycling scheme you can use for ink cartridges, batteries, old make-up, worn out shoes and clothing. Or take to the Witchford Household Recycling Centre with any electrical goods, old bits of wood, metal etc and deposit in appropriate bays.

For details, in your browser go to the **eastcamb.gov.uk website**. Click on 'waste and recycling' and then 'new bin changes from 1 June 2026'.

### HIGHWAYS AND STREET LIGHTS

If you have concerns about the condition of Cambridgeshire roads, paths, potholes, spillages etc, please report direct on the Cambridgeshire County Council 'Report It' tab <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

If you notice a faulty street light please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk or any member of the Council quoting street light number and name of street.

County Council owned lights maintained by Balfour Beatty should be reported direct to the County Council on the 'Report It' as above.

### DOG FOULING

Please report all incidents of dog fouling on the footways immediately to  
ECDC 01353 665555  
They will cleanse and visit the dog owners!  
Fines may be issued

**In the interests of health and hygiene for users of the recreation ground playing sport and children using the equipment, dogs are not permitted on our Recreation Ground/Village Green whatsoever.**

### PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THE FOOTBALL GOALPOSTS

#### FOOTBALLERS

Please be aware the goalposts on the recreation ground may only be moved by the Parish Council.

### Recreation Ground - Table Tennis

We are pleased to announce that the Witcham Events Committee has donated a table tennis table using money raised from the Annual World Peashooting Competition. The table is to be used only with the proper equipment which has also been provided and is currently stored with the table.

**No footballs or other objects permitted.**  
Our grateful thanks to the Committee for this very kind donation for our community.

### Witcham Parish Council Contact details:

Mick Housden – Chairman

[mick.housden@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mick.housden@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Karl Mackender – Vice-Chairman

[karl.mackender@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:karl.mackender@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

George Byrne

[george.byrne@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:george.byrne@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Laura Holdaway

[laura.holdaway@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:laura.holdaway@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Jane Lucas

[jane.lucas@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:jane.lucas@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Sally Wilkin

[sally.wilkin@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally.wilkin@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

15 April 2026

13 May 2026

10 June 2026

8 July 2026

2 September 2026 (new date)

All items for the agenda must be received by the Clerk at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

The meetings start at 7.30pm. There is an opportunity for the electorate to attend these meetings and provision is made for public participation/question time, (15 minutes) at each meeting. Please contact the Clerk prior to the meeting for details.

Visit our website:

[www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) to view agendas and approved minutes, news and updates on Parish Council activities.

Notices and Draft minutes are also posted on the noticeboards at the bus shelter and the corner of Silver Street/The Slade.