

# Oakington & Westwick Monthly Report – January 2026

**Cllr Luis Navarro**

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## Telecommunications Mast

Progress continues on installing two masts to improve mobile coverage in Northstowe. The restrictive covenant between Cambridgeshire County Council and Meridian Trust is being modified to allow masts on the existing water tower and at Longstanton Park & Ride.

This may have positive effects for Oakington & Westwick, either in the immediate future or in the long term as the positioning of another mast to cover further phases of development continue.

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## Bus Service

Although bus services fall under the Mayoral Combined Authority (CPCA), they remain a critical issue for a growing town like ours. Creating a culture of **Active Travel and Public Transport** is essential for residents and beneficial for the wider county.

On **Friday 17th**, I will meet with CPCA and Stagecoach to discuss ways to improve bus services and make them a viable alternative for our community. Please encourage residents to email me their support for this vital matter.

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## Morelife at the Unity Centre

The **Morelife** initiative, led by Cambridgeshire County Council, will soon operate from the new Unity Centre. This programme aims to bring together services offered by local authorities, private providers, and the voluntary sector, acting as a **signposting hub** to connect residents with the support they need regarding integrated health and lifestyle services.

Efficient communication is key to ensuring these services are fully utilised. Let's work together to make Morelife a success for our community.

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## Speed Bumps

Cambridgeshire County Council issued a clear statement regarding speculation from some residents regarding the effectiveness of the speed bumps on Cambridge Road:

*“These speed cushions were installed as part of our Local Highways Improvement programme, fully supported by both Oakington and Girton Parish Councils. These schemes are community-driven and give local people the opportunity to apply for highway improvements in their area.*

*The speed cushions meet the necessary guidance and the spacing between them is designed to keep vehicles driving consistently at a low speed.*

*The feedback received so far has been positive, and they were installed to improve safety and reduce speed.”*

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## **Busway Safety Fencing**

Safety works are underway between Orchard Park and Histon & Impington to install fencing between the Guided Busway and the maintenance track. This section is closed during works, expected to last **12 weeks**, but the maintenance track remains open for pedestrians and cyclists (with a narrower path).

### **Diversions:**

- **A route:** via Cambridge Road, Impington, then Histon Road into Cambridge
- **B route:** via Cambridge Road, rejoining the Busway at Orchard Park
- St Ives-bound stop at Histon & Impington remains open; use Pepys Terrace for city-bound travel
- Orchard Park passengers should use opposite stops to usual

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## **Council Updates**

### **Full Council**

At the meeting on **16 December**, I presented the annual report from the Health & Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care Partnership. Key decisions included:

- Developing a **culture and arts strategy** for Cambridgeshire
- Supporting UK re-entry into the **European Single Market** and assessing Brexit impacts
- Introducing a **policy for busway design** to allow modifications during delivery if safety requirements change

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## **Strategy, Resources & Performance**

The committee reviewed the draft **business plan and budget for 2026/27**. Key points:

- Demand for services continues to rise, especially in social care and SEND
- Major cost increases since 2019 include:
  - Home-to-school transport: **+122%**
  - Learning disability care: **+76%**
  - Older people's care: **+50%**
  - SEND support: **+42%**
  - Children in care: **+99%**
- Current year forecast: **£10M overspend** and **£100M SEND deficit**
- £40M savings needed for 2026/27; £6.4M gap remains

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## Adults & Health

The **Public Health Strategic Plan 2025–30** focuses on:

1. Healthy Schools programme
2. Road safety and active travel improvements
3. Suicide prevention and bereavement support
4. Employment access and workplace health programmes
5. Alcohol harm prevention strategy

**Smoking cessation:** Cambridgeshire met the national target in 2024/25, with **5.02% of smokers setting a quit date**, up from 4.18% in 2023/24.

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## Environment & Green Investment

- **Park & Ride Solar Panels:** Babraham Road Park & Ride now powers EV chargers and Addenbrooke's Hospital via a private wire system.
- **Digital Inclusion Directory:** A new guide helps residents access devices, skills, and online services. Available at [Connecting Cambridgeshire](#).

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## Combined Authority Update – Tiger Pass

The Tiger Pass, enabling young people to travel by bus for £1 per journey, is funded until **March 2027**. Its future beyond that date is uncertain, especially with the planned removal of the national fare cap in April 2027.