

CLr Luis Navarro – Monthly Report

March 2026

Cambridge Biomedical Campus Expansion

The County Council has agreed a partnership with **Prologis** to support the next phase of expansion at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

The proposal brings forward **67 acres of council-owned land** to provide new life-science research space, co-working labs, training facilities, key worker accommodation and offices. Plans include investment in **transport, green space**, and a **community fund**, with future commercial returns (subject to planning) helping support core council services.

Two New Special Schools

The Council has asked the Department for Education to continue delivering two new special schools:

- **Greensands Academy Gamlingay**
- **Lime Academy March**

Together they will provide **270 new specialist places** once completed.

New Data-Led Poverty Prevention System

The Council will procure a data-led platform to identify households who could benefit from **income maximisation** support.

This follows recommendations from the **Cambridgeshire Poverty Strategy Commission**. Similar systems have delivered strong results, for example, South Cambridgeshire secured nearly **1,000 successful claims** worth over **£500,000** in one year, with a projected **£4 million** lifetime value.

Safe Disposal of Batteries

RECAP is urging residents to recycle batteries correctly following recent fires, including:

- A fire at **Thalia's Alconbury** waste transfer station

- **13 bin lorry fires** in the past year

Residents should never place batteries in general waste. Recycling points are available at Household Recycling Centres, supermarkets, DIY stores and any shop selling batteries. More information: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/battery-disposal>

Potholes and Road Defects

The Council is responding to a sharp rise in road defects, a national issue affecting crew availability.

During the week of **9 March**, **30 crews** will be deployed (normally 7), including **overnight teams**. Persistent wet weather and limited closure availability continue to slow progress. The Council is increasing its own investment to offset insufficient Government funding.

Roadworks Update

- The **Twentypence Road** 24/7 closure ended **three weeks early**.
 - **B1050 Earith Road, Willingham**: closed **9–27 March**, 8:00–17:00.
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Peat Soil Roads – Parliamentary Update

MP **Ian Sollom** raised concerns in Parliament about the high costs and short lifespan of repairs on peat soil roads, including the B1050.

The Transport Secretary has committed to raising the issue with ministers.

2026/27 Maintenance Programme

The programme includes carriageway **works on Water Lane**, from Arcadia Gardens to Cambridge Road (C197).