

**AGM ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCILS - SAWTRY &
STILTON DIVISION**
COUNTY COUNCILLOR SIMON BYWATER April 2024

I am continually amazed by the unwavering dedication of our local voluntary groups who continuously step up to support individuals and communities within our area. To each and every one of you, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.

Since my last annual update, it has been a bustling year, marked by the recent budget decisions made by both Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), reflecting in the council tax bills you've recently received. Regrettably, both councils opted for the maximum increase in their portions of the council tax bills. Considering the financial strains many households face, I could not in good conscience support this decision by the joint administrations. I also stand firmly against the 200% increase in the Mayor's precept for residents, and I remain sceptical about how this will genuinely enhance bus services for all of us in this part of North West Cambridgeshire.

I wish to draw attention to a recent CCC budget vote concerning the allocation of funds for Highways Maintenance. Despite efforts to boost the budget by an additional £21 million, the proposed budget amendment I endorsed was unfortunately not approved. This decision was made by the Liberal Democrat, Labour, Independent coalition-led administration. It's disheartening to note that this coalition has consistently opposed increased funding for Highways Maintenance over the past three years, despite the urgent need for improved road repairs and the very Cambridge City centric led approach the CCC has.

I acknowledge that many of you have observed the deteriorating state of our roads and the perceived lack of accountability from contractors. It's clear that there are issues surrounding the allocation and management of funds. Despite significant frustrations, I have achieved some local victories in ensuring the treatment and repair of certain roads and pavements. However, it remains an ongoing battle to ensure our voices are heard and that our local roads, as well as areas under the responsibility of the County Council, receive the necessary attention.

I urge you to continue reporting any highways issues to the CCC, as your feedback is invaluable in addressing these concerns. You can report any highways issue here <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Throughout the year, I've engaged with a diverse range of individuals, partners, and stakeholders to ensure both councils are striving to deliver their best for our communities. This includes my work on the Fire Authority.

Rest assured, I am committed to persistently working at the local level, advocating for residents, and especially ensuring that the joint administrations overseeing our councils are held accountable.

Best wishes

Simon

Cllr Simon Bywater

"Be motivated, Be adventurous, Be efficient and Be Excellent"

Sawtry and Stilton Division

Cambridgeshire County Council

07984 637553

[Cllr Simon Bywater "Sawtry & Stilton" Cambridgeshire County Council | Facebook](#)